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Aruba TODAY

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3 Men in Brooklyn Charged With Supporting IS

New York Police Commissioner Bill Bratton, right, and Diego Rodriguez, assistant director in charge of the FBI's New York field office, during a news conference about the arrest of three men for alleged support of the Islamic State in New York, Feb. 25, 2015.

(Chang W. Lee/The New York Times)

MARC SANTORA
STEPHANIE CLIFFORD
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NEW YORK - Three residents of Brooklyn were arrested and charged Wednesday with providing material support to the Islamic State, a terrorist organization that controls large parts of Iraq and Syria and has been actively recruiting young

people from around the world to its fight.

One of the men was arrested early Wednesday morning at Kennedy International Airport, where he was trying to board a flight to Istanbul and then planned to travel to Syria, according to the authorities.

At least two of the men threatened to carry out

attacks on targets in the United States if they failed in their attempt to travel overseas.

The arrests come one week after the authorities in London said they were looking for three teenage girls who left their homes and are suspected of traveling to Syria - part of a growing pattern of people leaving

their friends and families in the West and seeking to join the ranks of the jihadis. In a speech earlier Wednesday, James Comey, the director of the FBI, said the threat posed by sympathizers of the Islamic State was evolving and real.

"I have homegrown violent extremist investigations in every single state," he said

during a speech at a meeting of the National Association of Attorneys General. The Islamic State, Comey said, "is putting out a siren song through their slick propaganda through social media that goes like this," he began.

Continued on page 4

Homeland Security: House Republicans to decide on funding

ERICA WERNER
DAVID ESPO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats signed on to a Senate Republican plan to avoid a partial shutdown of the Homeland Security Department, putting pressure Wednesday on House Republicans to drop their insistence that any funding measure reverse President Barack Obama's orders easing immigration policies. Spending for the department, which oversees the nation's borders, expires Friday at midnight — held hostage in a proxy battle over Obama's recent executive actions sparing millions of

a bill to fund the agency without provisions that would overturn Obama's executive actions on immigration.

On Wednesday, Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, a Democrat, said his party would support the bill. Reid had previously indicated he wouldn't go along with it without first getting assurances that the bill would pass in the House.

The Senate then voted 98 to 2 in favor of a procedural motion that will allow the legislation to advance toward final passage.

But the House's response was uncertain. Earlier Wednesday, Republicans there reacted tepidly at

ate.

"I'm waiting for the Senate to act.

The House has done their job," he said after a closed-door meeting of the rank-and-file. Even so, lawmakers were told to be prepared to spend the weekend in the Capitol to resolve the issue.

Republican Rep. Pete King predicted a stand-alone spending measure would clear the House if it first passed the Senate. Yet he acknowledged that was not the preferred course of action for most Republicans, and there was ample evidence of that.

Rep. Tim Huelskamp, a Republican, said there was



House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio speaks to reporters following a meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015. Boehner said he's waiting for the Senate to act on legislation to fund the Homeland Security Department ahead of Friday's midnight deadline.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

immigrants in this country illegally from deportation. Republicans won full control of Congress in November's midterm elections. If Congress doesn't act before the deadline to fund Homeland Security for another year, the shutdown would mean almost 90 percent of the department's workers who are considered essential would have to work without pay until the situation is resolved. The showdown is therefore unlikely to have an immediate impact on U.S. security beyond worsening morale. Senate Republicans offered to allow a vote on

best to the plan.

Reid, after a closed-door meeting with fellow Democrats, said it was important to swiftly send the bill to the House. He said, "We look forward to working with our Republican colleagues in the next 24 hours to get this done."

All eyes now shift to the House of Representatives as soon as we pass our clean funding bill."

House Speaker John Boehner declined repeatedly to say what he would recommend to his conservative, fractious rank-and-file if the funding bill clears the Republican-controlled Sen-

ate. "I'm waiting for the Senate to act. The House has done their job," he said after a closed-door meeting of the rank-and-file. Even so, lawmakers were told to be prepared to spend the weekend in the Capitol to resolve the issue. Republican Rep. Pete King predicted a stand-alone spending measure would clear the House if it first passed the Senate. Yet he acknowledged that was not the preferred course of action for most Republicans, and there was ample evidence of that.

Rep. Tim Huelskamp, a Republican, said there was scant support expressed inside a House Republican meeting for what he termed a "surrender plan." Another frequent Republican rebel, Rep. Matt Salmon, said Boehner would find himself on "very thin ice" if he relied primarily on Democratic votes to pass a Homeland Security funding bill stripped of provisions to roll back immigration directives that Obama issued in 2012 and last year. House Republicans reacted as the administration stepped up the pressure on the Republicans to fund an agency with major anti-terrorism responsibilities. □

Representatives grill Kerry on aspects of Iran nuclear talks

DEB RIECHMANN
MATTHEW LEE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State John Kerry played defense Wednesday on Capitol Hill, fielding dozens of questions from lawmakers worried about what Iran could get in a deal being negotiated to block its ability to make an atomic weapon.

California Republican Rep. Ed Royce, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, told Kerry at a hearing that members of the panel have serious concerns about the direction of the more than 1-year-old talks, which are at a critical juncture. Negotiators are rushing to try to meet a March 31 deadline for a framework agreement between Iran and the U.S. and five other world powers.

"I'm hearing less about dismantlement and more about the performance of Iran's nuclear program," Royce told Kerry. "That's particularly disturbing when you consider that international inspectors report that Iran has still not revealed its past bomb work."

New York Rep. Elliot Engel, the ranking Democrat on the committee, expressed skepticism too.

Engel noted news stories claiming that negotiators are willing to ease limits on Iran's enrichment production during the later years of an accord in order to bridge the differences between the two sides over how long an agreement should last.

"We're hearing troubling reports on the scale and duration of the program that Iran may be allowed as part of a deal," Engel said.

The secretary testified in the House two days after returning to Washington from the latest round of talks in Geneva. U.S. and Iranian officials reported progress on getting to a deal that would clamp down on Tehran's nuclear activities for at least 10 years but would then slowly ease restrictions.

Any comprehensive pact could ease 35 years of U.S.-Iranian enmity — and seems within reach for the first time in more than a decade of negotiations.

Royce said the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency is worried about the scope of Iranian military-related activities, including its work in designing a nuclear payload for a missile.

"The IAEA inspectors have amassed over 1,000 pages which showed research, development and testing activity on technologies needed to develop a nuclear weapon," the congressman said. "Of the 12 sets of questions that the IAEA has been seeking since 2011, Iran has answered part of one of them," adding the Iranians are withhold information on the remaining set.

"They are legitimate and the questions have to be answered," Kerry replied. "And they will be if they (the Iranians) want to have an agreement."

He said Iran has complied with all the provisions of a first-step agreement, which launched the talks. "They agreed to roll back their program," Kerry said. "I think that's cause for hope."

Wednesday was Kerry's second appearance before Congress in as many days. As he did on Tuesday in the Senate, Kerry declined to disclose details of the discussions and told members of the House that it's inappropriate to condemn what is in an agreement before anybody knows what it is — or even if there even will be a deal.

"It's fair to be skeptical until you see the agreement, and it's important to be hopeful. And that's the way I'd put it," Kerry said. "I'm not sitting here expressing confidence. □

Obama hopes to score points in Miami on immigration

JULIE DAVIS

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WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama, thwarted by a federal court from carrying out pieces of his immigration directive and barraged daily by congressional Republicans trying to gut or defund it, is in many ways frozen in place on his attempt to wield presidential authority to reshape the immigration system.

So Obama took his message on the road, using a trip to Miami on Wednesday to exact a political price from Republicans for their opposition to his immigration policy and to consolidate gains he has made with Hispanics since announcing executive actions to shield millions of unauthorized immigrants from deportation.

He held a town-hall-style meeting on immigration at Florida International University and sat for an interview with Telemundo, the Spanish-language television network. It is a classic use of the bully pulpit - a presidential power not subject to the whims of the courts and Congress - to frame the immigration issue to his own, and his party's, benefit.

"There is this element of accountability - about bringing people out of the shadows, making them submit to a background check and start paying taxes - that we can't move forward on because of the judge's ruling," said Josh Earnest, the White House press secretary. Earnest added that Obama answered questions during the town hall discussion about the ruling, by a federal judge in Texas, and about the "next steps in the legal process."

"This is about the president doing what presidents are supposed to do, which is traveling across the country and talking about their priorities for the country," Earnest said. "There is no question that one of the president's priorities is reforming our broken immigration system."

Before leaving for Miami on Wednesday, Obama huddled privately at the

White House with immigration advocates to brief them on his legal and legislative strategy for pushing forward with changes even in the face of obstacles in Congress and the courts, according to people who were invited.

The White House says Obama still plans to use his prosecutorial discretion to rearrange deportation priorities, focusing more on criminals and recent entrants to the United States than on law-abiding people who have lived in the country longer.

The trip to Miami comes as Congress is running out of time to break a logjam over funding for the Department of Homeland Security, which will expire Friday unless Congress can pass a bill to continue providing money for the agency.

The trip also coincides with the first full week the Homeland Security Department had been scheduled to begin carrying out part of the program. Obama announced in November that he would shield up to 5 million unauthorized immigrants from deportation and provide many of them with work permits.

The court's ruling blocked about 270,000 immigrants who came to the United States illegally as children from applying for the new protected status - a process that was to begin last week.

And after the court decision, the White House announced that it was delaying a second program, scheduled to begin in May, that would offer about 4 million immigrants with children who are U.S. citizens a reprieve from deportation and a chance to work. The administration has filed for an emergency stay of the ruling to allow both changes to take effect.

"At this point, the president's strategy is to be as aggressive as possible on the legal side and really go out and make the case publicly of why his actions are good for the economy and good for our safety," said Ali Noorani, the executive director of the National Immigration Forum. □



President Barack Obama gestures during a town hall meeting on immigration with MSNBC's Jose Diaz-Balart hosted by Telemundo and MSNBC, Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015, at Florida International University in Miami.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)



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3 men in Brooklyn charged with supporting IS

Continued from Front

"Troubled soul, come to the caliphate, you will live a life of glory, these are the apocalyptic end times, you will find a life of meaning here fighting for our so-called caliphate and if you can't come, kill somebody where you are."?

"That is a message that goes out to troubled souls everywhere, resonates with troubled souls - people seeking meaning in some horribly misguided way," he said.

The men charged Wednesday appeared to fit that mold, according to court documents. They were swayed by videos posted online by the Islamic State, inspired by messages on

social media and compelled to act after months of becoming increasingly radicalized.

The men arrested were identified as Abdurasul Hasanovich Juraboev, 24; Akhror Saidakhmetov, 19; and Abror Habibov, 30. Juraboev and Saidakhmetov were scheduled to appear Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn. Habibov is scheduled to appear in federal court in Florida.

The federal agents' investigation seemed to originate with Juraboev and his online activities.

On Aug. 8, 2014, a person whose Internet protocol address and alias matched that of Juraboev, posted to Hilofatnews, an Uzbek-language website supportive of the Islamic State:



A Homeland Security police officer, left, joins a Federal Court policeman, right, as security is enhanced during the arraignment of two men on terrorism related charges, Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015, in Brooklyn, N.Y. The men were arrested along with a third man Wednesday on charges of plotting to travel to Syria to join the Islamic State group and wage war against the U.S.

(AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

"I am in USA now but we don't have any arms. But is it possible to commit ourselves as dedicated martyrs anyway while here? What I'm saying is, to shoot Obama and then get shot ourselves, will it do?"

On Aug. 15, federal agents went to Juraboev's Brooklyn address.

He confessed that he believed in the Islamic State's agenda, would like to travel to Syria to fight on its behalf, and would harm President Barack Obama if he could, according to court papers.

In an interview three days later, Juraboev said Saidakhmetov was a co-worker with similar views on the jihadis. Investigators found that in early August, Saidakhmetov had also posted

on Hilofatnews celebrating a massacre of Iraqi soldiers by Islamic State fighters.

In late September, a paid informant posing as an Islamic State supporter approached Juraboev at a mosque, and later that day met Saidakhmetov, and all three spoke about traveling to Syria.

Saidakhmetov told the informant that "he had wanted to travel to Syria to wage jihad, but that his mother had feared that he would do so and took his passport so that he could not travel."

The conversations about travel to Syria continued through the fall and winter. Eventually, Juraboev and Saidakhmetov bought tickets to Turkey, the flights scheduled for February

and March 2015, planning to go over the border to fight for the Islamic State.

Saidakhmetov was an employee of the third defendant, Habibov. Habibov runs mall kiosks that offer mobile-phone repair services and kitchen equipment in malls in several states.

He hired Saidakhmetov to work at the kiosks in fall and winter 2014, according to court papers.

Habibov had promised to cover expenses for his trip, Saidakhmetov said in recorded conversations, and helped arrange some of the travel.

Soon after Saidakhmetov bought his ticket, after worrying over receiving the proper travel documents, he told the informant that "if they were detected at the airport, they could kill a police officer and use the officer's gun to shoot other law enforcement officers that arrived on the scene," the court papers say.

Juraboev is a permanent resident of the United States and a citizen of Uzbekistan. Saidakhmetov, also a permanent U.S. resident, is a citizen of Kazakhstan. Habibov is a citizen of Uzbekistan.

The U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York, Loretta E. Lynch, said in a statement that the arrests underscored the continuing threat posed by the Islamic State - both at home and abroad. □



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Chicago mayor's race heats up as Emanuel faces runoff

JULIE BOSMAN

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CHICAGO - To the surprise of many residents here, Chicago has itself a mayor's race.

On Tuesday, Mayor Rahm Emanuel failed to win enough votes to win a second term without a runoff, opening up a second, shorter and more intense phase of the campaign, and leaving Emanuel vulnerable to his closest challenger, Jesus G. Garcia. Emanuel, who has battled with teachers' unions and struggled to win the support of many black Chicagoans, will face Garcia, a county commissioner who is known as Chuy, in a runoff vote April 7.

The mayor won more than 45 percent of the vote, Garcia received 34 percent and three other candidates split the rest of the vote.

Garcia, 58, is something of an accidental candidate. He was encouraged to enter the race last fall by Karen Lewis, the president of the Chicago Teachers Union. Lewis was considered a strong challenger to Emanuel but abandoned her bid when she found out she had a brain tumor.

Emanuel rallied supporters last night. "We have come a long way and we have a little bit further to go," he said.

"This is the first step in a real important journey for our city. For those who voted for me in this election, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

For those who voted for someone else, I hope to earn your confidence and your support in the weeks to come."

In only a few months, Garcia has gathered support from many city workers and in neighborhoods with

large Hispanic populations. But, with the field cleared, the next six weeks of campaigning will test him in new ways, as he comes under pressure to outline his ideas as the sole alternative to Emanuel.

A jubilant Garcia returned to the campaign trail just as commuters began to rush to work on a crisp 19-degree Wednesday morning, greeting riders of the El train at a downtown stop. A spokesman for Emanuel's campaign did not reveal his schedule, but photos of Emanuel greeting voters at an El stop on the South Side, coffee cup in hand, were posted on his Twitter account Wednesday morning.

Garcia, wearing a wide grin, stood outside the turnstiles, shaking hands and introducing himself as campaign aides gave out fliers and buttons bearing his name.

"I'm feeling pretty good," Garcia said. "A little tired. It's a good day for Chicago."

Election returns showed that Emanuel won handily in white, affluent areas of the city, while Garcia performed particularly well in the heavily minority neighborhoods on the West and South Sides.

Garcia, who early in his political career was an ally of Chicago's first black mayor, Harold Washington, is expected to canvass heavily among African-American voters, many of whom were angered by Emanuel's decision to close nearly 50 public schools.

According to census data, 32 percent of Chicago's 2.7 million residents are white (non-Hispanic); 33 percent are black; and 29 percent are Hispanic. Garcia was born in Durango, a village in north-central Mexico. □



Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel pauses as he talks to supporters after he was unable to get a majority vote in the Chicago mayoral election, forcing a runoff election in April against Jesus "Chuy" Garcia. Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015, in Chicago.

(AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast)

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GOP lawmakers accuse Yellen of playing politics

M. CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen came under fire Wednesday from House Republicans, who challenged the central bank's lack of accountability during her second day of testi-

inequality in the midst of last fall's congressional campaigns — just as Democrats were trying to make a major issue of income inequality.

Rep. Scott Garrett, a Republican from New Jersey, said a review of her meeting calendars painted a

supported legislation that would increase congressional oversight of the central bank. GOP lawmakers are pushing two bills. One labeled "Audit the Fed" would expand the ability of the Government Accountability Office, the auditing arm of Congress, to audit

the Senate Banking Committee in which she said the audit measure would subject the Fed to undue political influence. She had said if such a measure had been in effect in the early 1980s, it might have prohibited then-Fed Chairman Paul Volcker from using politically unpopular high interest rates to break a decade-long bout of high inflation.

GOP lawmakers noted that the Fed in the late 1970s agreed to legislation pushed by Democrats to have the head of the central bank report twice a year to Congress on its conduct of monetary policy.

They said they would like to see that requirement expanded to four times a year, especially because like her predecessors, Yellen meets weekly with the Treasury secretary.

Yellen, the first Democrat to serve as Fed chairman since Paul Volcker left in 1987, said that she does not discuss interest rate policies in her weekly meetings with Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew. Rather, their meetings often focus on issues the two will be facing at various international gatherings.

In her economic report, Yellen gave the same summary she delivered Tuesday before the Senate panel.

She said that the Fed is not ready to raise interest rates from record lows because the job market needs to improve further and inflation is too low.

But at the same time, she set the stage for rate hikes later this year by outlining the steps the Fed will take in moving to raise rates. □

Officials:

Tax form error will not force resubmissions

TARA SIEGEL BERNARD
© 2015 New York Times

The Treasury Department has an easy fix for taxpayers who filed their returns using inaccurate data sent by HealthCare.gov: They don't have to do anything at all.

Last week, the federal government said that it sent incorrect tax forms to about 800,000 people who bought insurance through the federal health care exchange. An estimated 50,000 taxpayers had already filed their returns using inaccurate information. But a senior Treasury official said late Tuesday that people who had already filed were not required to amend their returns. He added, however, that they could do so if they expected the updated data to generate a larger refund.

This is the first tax season in which individuals must reconcile through their tax returns any federal health care subsidies they may have received.

Millions of people who bought insurance through the exchanges received an advance payment of a tax credit to defray the costs of the premiums. Those credits were based, in part, on how much buyers were expected to earn in 2014, as well as on the cost of a "benchmark plan." Since the credits were based on estimated income, taxpayers need to reconcile any differences against their actual 2014 income. □



House Financial Services Committee Chairman Rep. Jeb Hensarling, R-Texas, left, greets Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015, prior to her testimony before the committee's hearing: "Monetary Policy and the State of the Economy."

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

mony to Congress.

After she gave her semiannual economic report, GOP lawmakers on the House Financial Services Committee grilled Yellen with a basket of complaints.

They questioned her opposition to GOP legislation that would expand the ability of Congress to audit the Fed's operations. They accused her of being unduly influenced by Democrats. Rep. Sean Duffy, a Republican from Wisconsin, criticized Yellen for giving a major speech on income

"pretty damning picture that the Fed is immersed and guided by partisan politics."

Yellen, who was nominated by President Barack Obama, rejected those suggestions and staunchly defended the Fed's independence.

"We meet with a wide range of groups," Yellen said, calling Garrett's descriptions of her meetings "quite a mischaracterization."

She strongly reiterated her disapproval of Republican-

the Fed's decisions on interest rate policies. The other measure would require the Fed to adopt a rule that would govern its decisions on setting interest rates.

Conservative Republicans in both the House and Senate are pushing the measures as a way to gain more control over the central bank, which they see as too secretive and too powerful a government institution.

GOP lawmakers also took issue with comments Yellen had made Tuesday before



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US Financial Front:

America's new home sales fall slightly in January

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Sales of new U.S. homes were basically flat in January, evidence that recent job gains and relatively low mortgage rates have yet to spur the real estate market.

The Commerce Department said Wednesday that new home sales slipped 0.2 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 481,000. This marks a slight decrease from sales of 482,000 homes in December, but represents a solid 5.3 percent gain from a year ago when harsh winter weather caused home-buying to stall.

Despite the increasingly favorable economy, home sales have been sluggish at the start of the year. Still, many analysts expect that the housing market will gather momentum with the start of the spring buying season. Revisions made to sales in previous months indicate that sales should continue to make progress as the recovery from the housing bust and Great Recession is entering its sixth year.

"Activity for the rest of the year is likely to improve at a modest, albeit choppy, pace," said Blerina Uruçi, an analyst at the bank Barclays.

Yet January proved to be a rocky month for real estate.

Snow has buried parts of the Northeast, cutting into open house visits. Too few homes are being listed for sale, and those that are on the market still seem to be out of reach for many prospective buyers even with the recent hiring surge and historically low interest rates.

"The weather may make it difficult to determine the underlying strength in construction activity in the near-term," said Michelle Girard, an analyst at RBS Securities. "However, anecdotal reports from areas not affected by weather have indicated healthy activity."

Sales of existing homes last month sank 4.9 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.82 million. Contributing to that nine-month low was a tight inventory of homes on the market that sent prices higher. That may be push-

ing some home shoppers to wait for more choices at more inviting prices.

But builders have yet to significantly increase con-

fordable levels. The median sales price rose 9.1 percent since January 2014 to \$294,300.

Toll Brothers, which special-

climbed to \$821,500 from \$766,100.

And instead of upgrading to new houses, some homeowners are renovat-



A flag advertising a new home for sale flaps in the breeze in Richmond, Va. The Commerce Department reported on U.S. sales of new homes in January on Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015.

(AP Photo/Steve Helber)

struction.

Many firms are focused on selling to wealthier buyers, instead of competing on volume by constructing more houses at more af-

fordable levels. The median sales price rose 9.1 percent since January 2014 to \$294,300. Toll Brothers, which special-

climbed to \$821,500 from \$766,100. And instead of upgrading to new houses, some homeowners are renovat-

MetLife will pay government \$123M in mortgage settlement

NEW YORK (AP) —

MetLife's home lending unit will pay \$123.5 million to end an investigation into allegations it gave government-backed mortgages to people who didn't meet federal requirements.

The Justice Department said Wednesday that MetLife knew the business was issuing hundreds

of loans that didn't meet federal requirements, which means they were not eligible for insurance by the Federal Housing Authority. But MetLife granted the mortgages anyway, and the agency says the FHA and taxpayers were stuck with the bill when defaults followed. According to the agency, during some periods

between January 2009 and August 2010 MetLife Bank knew that a majority of the loans it was originating had material or significant deficiencies. While those rates improved later, it says MetLife also altered its practices so fewer mortgages appeared to be deficient.

The Justice Department

says MetLife Bank's CEO, board of directors, and other members of senior management were aware that many of the mortgages didn't meet government standards. The New York company says it cooperated with the investigation and set aside money for the settlement. It exited the business in 2012.

MetLife Bank was also among 16 major mortgage lenders and servicers cited by U.S. regulators in April 2011 for improperly foreclosing upon homeowners in 2009 and 2010. The Federal Reserve imposed \$3.2 million in penalties against MetLife. Shares of MetLife Inc. fell 9 cents to \$51.30 in afternoon trading. □

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3 Al-Jazeera journalists arrested for flying drone in Paris

T. ADAMSON

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Three Al-Jazeera journalists have been arrested for illegally flying a drone in Paris Wednesday, after unidentified drones flew over the Eiffel Tower and key Paris landmarks for a second night running. It's further baffled French authorities who are investigating a spate of unidentified flying objects in the Paris skies at a time of high security across the country.

The foreign nationals aged 70, 54 and 36 — who work for the Doha-based international broadcaster — were taken into custody Wednesday afternoon after police spotted a drone flying in the Bois de Boulogne woods in western Paris, said Paris prosecutors' spokeswoman Agnes Thibault-Lecuire.

She said it was unclear what the trio were trying to accomplish. "Three Al-Jazeera English journalists have been held by police in Paris while filming a report on the city's recent mystery drones," the network said in a comment from its base in Qatar. "We will comment further when more information is available." The journalists can be held for a maximum of 24 hours under French law. Flying drones without a license in France is illegal and carries a maximum one-year prison sentence and a 75,000 euros (\$85,000) fine.

The Al-Jazeera arrests come in the midst of a police investigation into a spate of mysterious drone sightings over the French capital, including on Monday and Tuesday nights. Police sighted one or more drones in five instances buzzing in the Paris sky in

the night of Tuesday to Wednesday — from 11.30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

An unidentified flying ob-

ject was first seen Tuesday night near the Gare de l'Est train station, with sightings continuing in sequence

for over two hours over the

Paris Opera, then on to

the Tuileries gardens, past

the Eiffel Tower and then

after drones, which are banned over Paris, were also spotted Monday night — including over the U.S.

and even whether they were all coordinated.

Last month a drone caused worry after being sighted flying over the Elysee Palace, the residence of President Francois Hollande — following dozens of sightings of drones over nuclear plants and military installations. These latest episodes are sparking particular concern, with Paris already on its highest-alert after January's deadly terrorist attacks by Islamic radicals. French authorities have said the drones currently present no threat, apart from the risk of falling on someone, but the government is trying to find ways to counteract the devices. Some fear the drones could be spying on technology or could one day be equipped with weapons. Drone operator Jean-Luc Fournier, who has consulted on French drone legislation, said authorized operators condemn such rogue flights because it casts the whole industry in a bad light. □



This photo shows the main entrance of the American embassy in Paris. Three Al-Jazeera journalists have been arrested for illegally flying a drone in Paris Wednesday, after unidentified drones flew over the Eiffel Tower and key Paris landmarks for a second night running.

(AP Photo/Michel Euler)

ject was first seen Tuesday night near the Gare de l'Est train station, with sightings continuing in sequence

south past Paris' Montparnasse Tower, according to Thibault-Lecuire.

An inquiry was launched

Embassy.

It's not known who was behind the flights, how many objects there were in total,

Netanyahu:

World powers 'have given up' in Iran nuke talks

IAN DEITCH

Associated

JERUSALEM (AP) — In his sharpest criticism yet, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Wednesday that world powers "have given up" on stopping Iran from developing nuclear weapons in ongoing negotiations.

Netanyahu's comments, at a meeting of his Likud Party outside of Jerusalem, come as he plans to address the U.S. Congress on the nuclear negotiations.

The West fears Iran could build an atomic bomb with its nuclear program.

Iran says its program is for peaceful purposes. The Islamic Republic is now negotiating a final deal with the U.S., Britain, France, Russia, China and Germany, with hopes of on a preliminary deal in March and a follow-up pact in June.

Netanyahu, as well as many in Israel, view a nuclear-armed Iran as a threat to its very existence, citing Tehran's repeated calls for Israel's destruction and its support for groups like Hezbollah.

In his remarks, Netanyahu said that the greatest challenge Israel faces is "the

threat of Iran arming itself with nuclear weapons with a declared goal of annihilating us."

"From the agreement that is forming it appears that they (world powers) have given up on that commitment and are accepting that Iran will gradually, within a few years, develop capabilities to produce material for many nuclear weapons," he said. "They might accept this but I am not willing to accept this." Netanyahu's remarks come amid an uproar over his upcoming visit to Washington. He accepted a Republi-

can invitation to address Congress about Iran in early March, but the speech has angered the Obama administration because it was arranged without consulting the White House, a breach of diplomatic protocol.

Relations between Netanyahu and the White House always have been tense. His planned speech also has drawn fire in Israel, coming just two weeks before national elections. Netanyahu has rejected the criticism, saying it is his duty to lobby against the nuclear deal. □

Russian Paper:

Kremlin sought Crimea before Ukrainian government's fall

NEIL MacFARQUHAR

© 2015 New York Times

MOSCOW - The Russian government laid plans to annex Crimea and destabilize southeastern Ukraine weeks before the government fell in Kiev, a Russian newspaper reported on Wednesday, citing a strategy document.

Russia has long contended that it acted without premeditation in Crimea, seeking to protect Russian speakers who were under threat of attack and to stave off what it suspected was an attempt by NATO to move its forces into the region.

A report in Novaya Gazeta, one of the few independent voices still publishing in Russia, said that the Kremlin had concluded by February 2014, long before President Viktor F. Yanukovich of Ukraine resigned, that he would fall and that Russia would have an opportunity to annex Crimea.

The document, which the newspaper said was made available to Russian leaders, said that Yanukovich's presidency was "bankrupt" and that the central administration was paralyzed. The authenticity of the document could not be independently verified.

With Ukraine likely to break into two - a pro-European west and a pro-Russian east combined with Crimea - Moscow had to act quickly, the report said, particularly given that the Yanukovich government could soon fall.

Russia should take advantage of the "centrifugal forces" tearing the country apart in order to merge the east with the rest of Russia, the report said. "The dominant regions for the application of force should be Crimea and the Kharkiv region," it said, particularly given that strong groups there endorsed the idea of joining Russia. □



Russia-backed rebels sit on an armored transporter driving to the airport outside Donetsk, Ukraine, Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015.

(AP Photo/Vadim Ghirda)

Greek leader faces criticism over austerity concessions

ELENA BECATOROS

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece's prime minister held a marathon meeting with his party's lawmakers Wednesday, briefing them on pledges made to European creditors to win a four-month extension of the country's bailout amid simmering party discontent over what some see as a capitulation.

The meeting, which was held behind closed doors, lasted more than 11 hours. Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, elected last month on the promise to repeal bailout austerity measures, including spending cuts and tax hikes, has been at pains to persuade hardliners in his radical left Syriza party that Greece succeeded in its European negotiations.

Greece won its extension Tuesday by pledging a series of policy measures, including adherence to certain reforms and highlighting its will to crack down on corruption and tax eva-

sion. It also promised not roll back privatizations as it had promised before being elected on Jan. 25 and not take any unilateral action without consulting with Greece's creditors.

But some party members and ministers have insisted election promises should be kept. Energy and Environment Minister Panagiotis Lafazanis, a party hardliner, has repeated he will not go ahead with privatizations, which were part of initial requirements for the 240 billion euro (currently \$272 billion) bailout.

Lafazanis told the daily Ethnos newspaper that the privatization of the power grid and of the country's power utility would be halted as final binding bids had not yet been submitted.

Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis, speaking on RealFM radio Wednesday, said the policy measures list he sent to Brussels to win the extension included "constructive ambiguity" on the issue of privatizations. □



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EU prosecutor: Close 'prosecution gaps' for terror cases

JOHN DAHLBURG

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The European Union's top criminal prosecutor is calling on member countries to update and harmonize anti-terrorism laws to deal more effectively with the twin threats of European-born participants in Islamic jihad and solitary extremists.

Michele Coninx, president of Eurojust, the EU's agency for judicial cooperation, told The Associated Press that despite much progress, "we see popping up new prosecution gaps" that could hinder cross-border efforts to combat terrorism.

Coninx, a career prosecutor and counterterrorism specialist from Belgium, said in an interview Tuesday that among the EU's 28 member nations, laws differ on how to deal with

lone participants in terrorist actions, or recruiters also acting alone. Similarly, she said, EU countries' laws vary on how to treat people traveling to fight with extremist groups in Syria or Iraq, or who have returned from battlefields there. She advocates a single EU-wide definition of "foreign terrorist fighters," which she said would help police and prosecutors from different countries

work more seamlessly together. The Hague-based agency that Coninx has headed since 2012 was tapped by EU leaders this month to play a greater part in forming a common front against terrorism.

Eurojust, where each EU country is represented by a senior prosecutor or judge, is supposed to step up information-sharing and operational cooperation in the anti-terrorism field, as is its crosstown neighbor in this Dutch city, the EU-wide police agency Europol.

"We should really strive for a common approach because the problem is obviously common," Coninx said. "It starts locally. It starts nationally, but it doesn't stay there. So we should not only collect information, we should connect information." □

Abducted Syrian Christians moved to militant stronghold

ZEINA KARAM

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Islamic State militants have moved a large group of Christians they abducted to one of their strongholds as fighting raged on Wednesday between the extremists and Kurdish and Christian militiamen for control of a chain of villages along a strategic river in northeastern Syria, activists and state-run media said.

The Khabur River in Hassakeh province, which borders Turkey and Iraq, has become the latest battleground in the fight against the Islamic State group in Syria. It is predominantly Kurdish but also has populations of Arabs and predominantly Christian Assyrians and Armenians.

In pre-dawn attacks, the IS on Monday attacked communities nestled along the river, seizing at least 70 people, including many women and children. Thousands of others fled to safer



In this image posted on a militant social media account by the Al-Baraka division of the Islamic State group on Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015, militants take a break during fighting in Tal Tamr, Hassakeh province, Syria. Fierce fighting between Kurdish and Christian militiamen and Islamic State militants is continuing on Wednesday, Feb. 25 in northeastern Syria where the extremist group recently abducted at least 70 Christians.

(AP Photo via militant social media account)

areas.

The fate of those kidnapped, almost all of them Assyrian Christians, remained unclear Wednesday, two days after they were seized. Relatives of

the group searched frantically for word on the fate of the loved ones, but none came.

"It's a tragedy ... It is true what they say: history repeats itself," said Younan

Talia, a high ranking official with the Assyrian Democratic Organization who spoke to The Associated Press from Hassakeh.

He was referring to the 1933 massacre by Iraqi govern-

ment forces of Assyrians in Simele, a town in northern Iraq, after which the community fled to the Khabur region, and massacres against Armenian and Assyrian Christians under the Ottoman empire.

State-run SANA news agency and the Assyrian Network for Human Rights in Syria said the hostages have been moved to the Islamic State-controlled city of Shaddadeh, south of the city of Hassakeh. The United States and a coalition of regional partners are conducting a campaign of airstrikes against the group, and have on occasion struck Shaddadeh, a predominantly Arab town.

"In addition to its strategy of terrifying people, taking hostages to use as human shields to protect from coalition airstrikes is another of its goals," said Osama Edward, director of the Stockholm-based Assyrian Network for Human Rights in Syria. □

Japan panel discusses PM speech for WWII anniversary

MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — A panel of experts appointed by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met for the first time Wednesday to discuss what he should say in a statement marking the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, fueling speculation that he may water down previous government apologies for the country's wartime past.

Japan issued a landmark

apology on the 50th anniversary in 1995 under then-Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama, for the first time acknowledging its colonization and aggression in parts of Asia before and during the war. In 2005, then-Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi also apologized. A key question is whether Abe will use the same terms such as "colonial rule" and "aggression" in his statement.

Abe appointed the

16-member panel — 10 academics, three business leaders, two journalists and an international aid worker — to seek advice on what he should say on Aug. 15, the anniversary of the war's end.

Abe told the panel he hopes to get their views on what Japan has learned from the past, how Japan has contributed to international peace in the post-war era and what Japan's

regional and international contribution should be in the future. He did not refer to the apology, and panel members said they are not bound by the specific words used in past statements.

Abe, who took office in late 2012, initially signaled his intention to revise the 1995 apology, triggering criticism from China and South Korea. He now says his Cabinet stands by the apology, but that he wants

to issue a more forward-looking statement, raising speculation that he will somehow water it down.

"A 70th anniversary statement issued by the prime minister has a highly political and diplomatic meaning, and we must take that into consideration," said international politics professor Shinichi Kitaoka, deputy head of the panel and one of Abe's favorite academics. □



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Clashes, tear gas after police kill boy at Venezuela protest

LUZ DARY DEPABLOS
HANNAH DREIER

Associated Press

SAN CRISTOBAL, Venezuela (AP) — The killing of a 14-year-old boy by a policeman during an anti-government protest is raising already high tensions in Venezuela amid a crack-down on the opposition and crippling economic problems. Protesters hurling rocks clashed with police backed by armored vehicles late into the night, and the country was braced for further demonstrations Wednesday after the student, identified as Kluiverth Roa, was shot in the head and killed during a confrontation in San Cristobal, the capital of a restive western state.

Police officer Javier Mora Ortiz, 23, confessed to firing on the boy with plastic ammunition, officials said.

A photo and video of the student lying in a pool of blood, his backpack hanging over his shoulder, as a man frantically tries to staunch the bleeding and others scream and clutch their heads in horror rocketed around social media. Mourners were gathering in San Cristobal for the funeral, expected Wednesday afternoon.

Ruling party officials, including President Nicolas Maduro, condemned the killing with rare speed and forcefulness. But as Maduro spoke, many residents of the university town near the Colombian border leaned out their windows to bang pots and pans in a cacophonous protest that lasted two hours. Shops closed their doors and public transportation halted as protesters set up flaming barricades on main thoroughfares.

Buses began running again Wednesday morning, but



People protest violence outside the Vatican's diplomatic mission in Caracas, Venezuela, Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015. Protesters are asking Pope Francis to intervene after the death of a 14-year-old student who died after he was shot in the head Tuesday at an anti-government protest in the city of San Cristobal.

schools remained closed. In Caracas, small groups gathered Wednesday to protest the killings. Teacher Carolina Castro was among dozens of government critics who held signs outside the diplomatic mission of the Vatican beseeching Pope Francis in-

tervene. "It hurts me that they're killing our students," said Castro, who wore a home-made necklace with a photo of the 14 year-old. "How many more Venezuelans have to be murdered before there is a reaction?" Maduro said in a nation-

ally televised address that masked protesters had used rocks to attack police who sought to quell the demonstration. He called on young people to resist instigating such confrontations, but also condemned the killing. Venezuelan ombudsman

Tarek William Saab, a federal official charged with defending human rights, said on Twitter that he deplored the "vile assassination" of the teen, who he named as Kluiverth Roa, though other officials spelled his first name differently.

Last month, the government issued a policy change to allow law enforcement officials to open fire and use deadly force to control protests. At the time, human rights groups said the new regulation was dangerously vague, but Saab defended it. Attorney General Luisa Ortega Diaz said the state would investigate whether the new policy had played a part in the boy's death.

On Wednesday, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry described the killing as "horrendous," and of a piece with the wrongheaded direction in which he said the Venezuelan government is moving.

Tensions were already running high following of a slew of bad economic news and the arrest last week of the opposition mayor of Caracas. □

(AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

Hong Kong budget offers relief to protest-hit businesses

KELVIN CHAN
AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong's finance chief on Wednesday unveiled \$37 million in measures aimed at giving relief to some business owners and restoring confidence in the Asian financial hub following pro-democracy protests last year that choked traffic for 11 weeks.

In his annual budget speech, Financial Secretary John Tsang said the government would waive for half a year license fees to help thousands of trav-

el agencies, hotels and guesthouses and 26,000 restaurants and food stalls. Vehicle exam fees for bus and taxi operators would also be waived once. About a third of the amount budgeted would be set aside for events to promote Hong Kong globally. Thousands of demonstrators in this southern Chinese financial hub occupied streets in three districts for 79 days last year to protest Beijing's curbs on the planned inaugural vote in 2017 for the city's top leader. The protesters clashed

with police in violent scuffles, upset over the plan for a pro-Beijing committee to screen candidates, which they call fake democracy. Tensions still simmer in Hong Kong more than two months after the last protest camp was cleared as the city's unpopular leader refused to offer any concessions to the activists. "Prolonged political bickering is detrimental to public administration and the international image of Hong Kong as a stable, law-abiding and efficient city. It may even dampen investors'

confidence in Hong Kong," Tsang said.

The protests divided Hong Kong and "also aroused concern about much more radical social conflict which in turn will make it harder to mend conflicted relationships among people," Tsang said in his speech, which was interrupted near the end by radical lawmaker Leung Kwok-hung, who started heckling him over Hong Kong's lack of a universal pension and was thrown out of the legislature chamber by security guards. □



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Jamaica lawmakers decriminalize small amounts of 'ganja'

DAVID McFADDEN
Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— Marijuana has been pervasive but illegal in Jamaica for decades, consumed as a medicinal herb, puffed as a sacrament by Rastafarians and sung about in the island's famed reggae music.

After many years of dialogue about the culturally entrenched drug, and emboldened by changes to drug laws in U.S. states, Jamaica's Parliament on Tuesday night gave final legislative approval to an act decriminalizing small amounts of pot and establishing a licensing agency to regulate a lawful medical marijuana industry.

The historic amendments pave the way for a "cannabis licensing authority" to be established to deal with regulating the cultivation and distribution of marijuana for medical and scientific purposes. Officials say the island's governor-general will formally sign it into law in coming days.

In addition, adherents of the homegrown Rastafari spiritual movement can now freely use marijuana for sacramental purposes for the first time on the tropical island where the faith was founded in the 1930s.



Legalization advocate and reggae legend Bunny Wailer smokes a pipe stuffed with marijuana during a "reasoning" session in a yard in Kingston, Jamaica. Jamaica lawmakers on Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015, passed an act to decriminalize small amounts of pot and establish a licensing agency to regulate a lawful medical marijuana industry on the island.

(AP Photo/David McFadden)

The act makes possession of up to 2 ounces of marijuana a petty offense that could result in a ticket but not in a criminal record. Cultivation of five or fewer plants on any premises will be permitted. And tourists who are prescribed medical marijuana abroad will soon be able to apply for permits authorizing them to legally buy small amounts of Jamaican weed, or "ganja" as it is known locally.

Peter Bunting, the island's national security minister, said Jamaica has no plans to soften its stance on transnational drug trafficking or cultivation of illegal plots. Jamaica has long been considered the Caribbean's largest supplier of pot to the U.S. and regional islands.

"The passage of this legislation does not create a free-for-all in the growing,

transporting, dealing or exporting of ganja. The security forces will continue to rigorously enforce Jamaican law consistent with our international treaty obligations," Bunting said in Parliament.

William Brownfield, the U.S. assistant secretary for counter-narcotics affairs, told The Associated Press days before the vote that "Jamaican law is of course Jamaica's own business,

and Jamaica's sovereign decision." But he noted that the trafficking of marijuana into the U.S. remains against the law.

"We expect that Jamaica and all states party to the U.N. Drug Conventions will uphold their obligations, including a firm commitment to combating and dismantling criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking," he told AP in an email.

Debate has long raged in Jamaica over relaxing laws prohibiting ganja, but previous calls to decriminalize small amounts fizzled out because officials feared they would bring sanctions from Washington.

Jamaican officials now hope that the island can become a player in the nascent medical marijuana industry, health tourism and the development of innovative pot-derived items. Local scientists already have a history of creating marijuana-derived products, such as "Canasol," which helps relieve pressure in the eyes of glaucoma patients.

Commerce Minister Anthony Hylton said a regulated cannabis industry holds "great potential" for Jamaica, where marijuana has long been grown illegally on mountainsides and marshes.

On Wednesday, Colorado-based United Cannabis Corp. said it has launched a partnership with Jamaican agencies to launch a marijuana research and development facility on the island that they hope will lead to patents and medical cannabis products. The move by Jamaican lawmakers adds to an international trend of easing restrictions on marijuana for medical or personal use. □

Protest by Brazilian truckers grows, creating shortages

SAO PAULO (AP) — Week-long protests by Brazilian truckers demanding lower fuel and toll prices have spread, causing shortages of gasoline and other products.

The Transportation Ministry's press office said Wednesday that truck drivers are blocking roads in 10 states and television stations broadcast images showing long lines of cars at gas stations that were running out

of fuel.

Truckers began their protest on Feb. 18 blocking a highway in the soybean-producing state of Mato Grosso. The movement quickly spread and on Wednesday they were blocking highways and roads, mostly in the agriculturally rich south, southeast and central-western parts of the country.

Truck drivers are also pro-

testing low freight prices and are demanding that freight costs be based on the distances trucks travel to deliver goods. Freight costs are currently determined by tonnage.

The protest has caused delivery delays and shortages of diesel and gasoline, as well as products such as soybeans, milk and meat. Brazil is the world's leading supplier of sugar, coffee and orange juice and the

second biggest producer of beef and soybeans. So far the protest movement has not affected the shipment of those products since ports have sufficient stocks of these products to load incoming ships.

Government officials, union leaders and representatives of transportation companies were scheduled to meet to discuss the drivers' demands. □



Loyal Visitors Honored at the Paradise Beach Villas



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Paradise Beach Villas as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years.

The honorees were Mr. Jack and Mrs. Judy O'Brien and their daughter Katherine Guggino from The Village, Florida, Mr. George and Mrs. Sally Szczublewski from Hamburg New York, and Mr. James and Mrs. Patricia Noga. All the honorees are loyal members of the Paradise Beach Villas and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, and being on Aruba and staying at the Paradise is like being home for them. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Sandra Miller representing the Paradise Beach Villas. □



At La Cabana Resort: Associates Honored During a Celebration of Champions



EAGLE BEACH – La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino's Eagle Team recently hosted a special event to honor and show appreciation for a number of associates



who excelled in customer service, personal development, community responsibility, acts of kindness and general exemplary behavior during 2014.

The resort's conference room was at full capacity for the celebration of champions, which shone a spotlight on the associates as they each received their certificates of appreciation. General Manager Joe Najjar praised the associates for their performance, adding to the excitement by announcing a monthly competition that will be held this year between all of the resort's departments, based on their goals for Best Improved Score and Highest Score. While the associates enjoyed an abundance of tasty snacks, chocolates and fun raffles, the Quality



Brass Band added to the carnival spirit before accompanying them to the pool deck for more fun around the Pata Pata Bar. La Cabana's past carnival queens joined aspiring queens Adrienne Arends from the Recreation Department and Ciria Quandus from Housekeeping for some fun dancing, show-

ing the judges their carnival skills and creativity. The group of judges proclaimed Ciria Quandus to be La Cabana's Carnival Queen for 2015, capping off a fun day of celebrations coordinated by the Social Committee. Congratulations to all of the Champions and Carnival Queen 2015, Ciria! □



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PALM BEACH - The heavenly scent of Down South home cookin' infused with exotic spices invites you to Hard Rock Café Aruba for a unique dining experience to be found at no other Hard Rock Café around the world. We brought these rich smokehouse flavors to the Caribbean just for you. The romantically cozy outdoor dining area under the canopy heightens the dining experience as you enjoy a 2 hour long happy hour from 7pm - 9pm nightly. Please do not hesitate to make your reservation as the best seats go first.

Hard Rock Café has taken the time to prepare an extra special menu of international delights along with tried and true favorites. Now that you are relaxed and feelin' fine, start off with a fabulous appetizer. If you just can't decide then we suggest a Jumbo Combo with a little bit of this and a little bit of that to open the appetite as happy hour continues. On the lighter size Hard Rock café offers plenty of salads that tease your palette with a tropical sensation of citrus and sweet all in one. Topped off with

smoky goodness of chicken breast and or bacon we toss in crisp veggies and possibly grilled shrimp or grilled salmon if you wish. Superb entrees like Beer Battered Alaskan Cod, Norwegian Salmon, and Famous Fajitas with your grilled preference of chicken, beef, or shrimp are super star status on this menu while accompanied by Pico de Gallo, Monterrey Jack and Cheddar Cheeses, and sour cream. The romantic smoky flavor continues through-



out this international menu as ribs that melt off the bone and half chicken are seasoned in perfectly balanced rub. All the rage, variations of pulled pork and pulled chicken entrees of course should not be missed either. Our selection of hickory barbeque sauces, chipotles, southern style mustard sauce plus a spicy jalapeño here and there liven things up in the Hard Rock Café tradition. Our children's menu is equally delightful and sure to please the little ones and mommies too. Hard Rock Café adds some good old down south Tennessee flavor to the Aruban night life scene. Enjoy a rustically romantic dinner that will definitely light your fire and have you coming back for more before your vacation ends. The best of the best live bands help set the scene and never disappoint. Your concierge will be happy to make a reservation for you at 586-9966 ☐

Judith and Samuel Continelli are breakfast regulars at Salt & Pepper

PALM BEACH - Most mornings Judith and Samuel Continelli from Staten Island, New York, can be found having breakfast at Salt & Pepper Restaurant in the Arawak Garden. They just walked in one day and enjoyed the pancakes, and eggs with lox and onions so much that they have been coming ever since.

Judith and Samuel are celebrating their 49th wed-

ding anniversary this trip, so their holiday to their favorite island is extra special. They love the people, the sun and the beaches. On Aruba for the 24th consecutive year, the lovely couple are welcome guests wherever they go: they are almost locals by now! We wish the Continelli's a wonderful anniversary trip and hope they will be back at Salt & Pepper soon again. □



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Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic returns the ball to Simone Bolelli of Italy during the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015.

Associated Press

Federer rallies to reach Dubai quarterfinals, Djokovic through

SANDRA HARWITT

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Defending champion Roger Federer stormed back from 4-1 down in the first set to beat Fernando Verdasco 6-4, 6-3 on Wednesday and claim a spot in the quarterfinals of the Dubai Championships.

Trailing 4-1, Federer delighted the packed stadium by winning 20 consecutive points to take the first set of the one hour match.

"I didn't even know that happened until someone told me afterwards," Federer said of winning five games in a row without losing a point. "I look back, it's quite a lot of points in a row and it might be the only time it's ever happened for me."

"Fernando is a shotmaker and he takes it out of your racket sometimes."

In all, Federer won six of his nine service games at love. He lost two of his other three service games.

Continued on Page 18

BUM STEER



Bulls stunned by latest Derrick Rose injury

Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo, right, blocks the shot of Chicago Bulls guard Derrick Rose (1) as Jerryd Bayless (19) and Ersan Ilyasova watch during the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Feb. 23, 2015, in Chicago.

Associated Press
Page 21

Love, old captain, now 'new' captain of U.S. Ryder Cup team

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla.

(AP) — Davis Love III was on his porch in Sea Island taking part in a conference call for the first Ryder Cup Task Force meeting, and he was shocked by what he heard.

First, the PGA of America really was going to let the players have a voice.

And then it quickly became clear the choice was going to be him.

Love was introduced Tuesday afternoon as U.S. captain for the 2016 matches at Hazeltine.

And while it appeared as though the Americans were looking in their past, he was presented as the start of a new model they hope can end two decades of European dominance.

He also was captain in 2012 at Medinah when Europe staged the biggest rally by a visiting team.

"I'm here with the same goal I had in 2012, but not as the same captain," Love said.

Love was part of an 11-member task force — eight of them former Ryder Cup players — that met twice since December.

The agenda for the first meeting was to define the role of the captains and

assistant captains, and then to throw out names. Among those mentioned were Fred Couples, Steve Stricker and Love.

Phil Mickelson, whose biting comments at Gleneagles regarding Tom Watson's style was the impetus for the task force, said the qualities of a captain included someone who was respected, didn't let his ego keep him from listening, some who could take the blame and share the credit, and who had the experience to build a blueprint for the next 20 years.

"There's only one guy who fits that bill," Mickelson said. The PGA of America also announced changes to the U.S. team to boost its chances.

Qualifying for the top eight players will end after the first FedEx Cup playoff event (The Barclays) instead of the PGA Championship. Three of the four captain's picks will be selected after the third playoff event (BMW Championship), while the final pick will be selected after the Tour Championship.

With a crowded schedule in 2016 because of the Olympics, that means the 12th player will be chosen five days before the matches begin.

Also, two of the vice cap-

tains will be former captains, and the other two will be players with Ryder Cup experience. Love already

has solved," Mickelson said.

Love is the first U.S. captain to get another chance in



Davis Love III smiles during a news conference announcing him as the 2016 U.S. Ryder Cup captain, at PGA of America, Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015, in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press

has selected Tom Lehman, the 2006 captain, to help him at Hazeltine. Lehman is from Minnesota.

Mickelson said the task force realized it had its captain after the first meeting, but it met again in early February and reached the same conclusion. The vote was unanimous the first time around.

More than a captain they wanted, Mickelson said the players felt they had partial ownership in the future.

"We went from having zero input and zero continuity, and both of those things the Ryder Cup Task Force

the same decade since Jack Nicklaus in 1987, and the first since Jack Burke Jr. in 1973 to get a second chance after losing. And he can expect to be involved in more Ryder Cups after Hazeltine.

Mickelson said he wouldn't rule out Love returning as captain in 2018, but "for sure a vice captain."

"It's not just a two-year commitment," Mickelson said. "Really it's a four- or six-year commitment to get the thing started."

Europe last week selected Darren Clarke to be captain for Hazeltine.

Tiger Woods, who was part of the task force, congratulated Love in a statement and said he respected him as a person, player and captain. Woods, Mickelson and Love will be part of the "Ryder Cup Committee," along with three PGA officers, to resume the work of the task force.

Love said he "didn't go in asking" to be captain again.

"I could not be more excited to captain the 2016 team," he said. "But I agreed to do it for one reason. The members of the task force, to a man, have said they will do whatever it takes for this team to be successful. They are all in. Our team will trust each other and we will have a shared vision."

Love said if he had been in the room, instead of on a conference call, when the names of potential captains were being written on a board, "I probably would have walked out" when his name appeared.

More than the task force choosing him, he was excited that the task force was involved in the first place. "It was more the process," he said. "In a text during a break to Steve or Jim (Furyk), we were like, 'They're actually going to let us pick the captain.'"

Dubai

Continued from Page 17

Top-seeded Novak Djokovic also only needed one hour to move into the quarterfinals with a 6-1, 6-2 win over Andrey Golubev. Djokovic never offered Golubev a break point opportunity and only gave up 11 points in eight service games.

"Having one match under my belt before today's encounter helped to feel a bit more comfortable to move around on the court quicker," Djokovic said.

Tomas Berdych became the eighth active player on the ATP Tour to post 500 career wins when he beat Simone Bolelli 7-6 (7), 5-7, 6-0.



Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns the ball to Andrey Golubev from Kazakhstan during the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015.

Associated Press

"It feels great," Berdych said. "I need to make sure I keep my body fresh so I can make another 500. I just am going to try to keep adding to it and play as

long as I can."

Third-seeded Andy Murray also moved into the quarterfinals with a swift 6-0, 6-2 win over Joao Sousa that only took 57 minutes.

Berdych was tested throughout the first two sets of the 2 hour, 24 minute match before dominating in the final set.

Berdych faced a set point against him in the first set tiebreaker before Bolelli sailed a backhand return long on a second set point for Berdych.

Bolelli, who had five break points in all in the second set, took advantage of a second set point on Berdych's serve in the 12th game with a forehand crosscourt winner.

"It was a tough day at the office," Berdych said. "The matches where you have to fight a bit are more generous for the experience." Murray has won all 12 sets in the five matches he's played against Sousa.

"Today, I thought I just

picked the right shots and played the right way when he was struggling," Murray said. "I didn't give him any free points."

"He was getting more frustrated because he couldn't get any free points and then was going for more and more shots and obviously making more errors because of it."

Qualifier Marsel Ilhan upset sixth-seeded Feliciano Lopez 3-6, 7-5, 6-3.

Lucky loser Borna Coric ended up with a win when at 6-4, 3-6, 6-6 and 4-4 in the third set tiebreaker Marcos Baghdatis retired from the match because of cramp. Elsewhere, seventh-seeded Roberto Bautista Agut was upset by Richard Gasquet 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (6), and Sergiy Stakhovsky defeated Denis Istomin 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.

Lack stops 40 as Canucks beat Bruins 2-1

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Zack Kassian broke a 1-1 tie with a goal early in the third period and Eddie Lack preserved the lead with 13 of his 40 saves in the final period for the Vancouver Canucks in a 2-1 win over the struggling Boston Bruins on Tuesday night.

Daniel and Henrik Sedin both picked up assists on the tiebreaking goal 6:47 into the third as the Canucks beat the Bruins for the second time this month.

Ryan Stanton had Vancouver's other goal, beating Tuukka Rask on a slap shot 3:28 into the game to tie it 1-1 and end a very brief lead for the Bruins.

Daniel Paille scored 1:05 into the game for Boston's only goal despite getting 41 shots. The Bruins are 1-6-2 in their past nine, including a 5-2 loss at Vancouver on Feb. 13.

Rask finished with 26 saves.

Rangers 1, Flames 0

NEW YORK (AP) — Kevin Hayes broke a scoreless tie 3:00 into the third period and Cam Talbot made 21 saves.

Derick Brassard forced a turnover by defenseman Dennis Wideman in the Calgary zone and made a pass from the left circle to the right circle to Hayes, who snapped in his 12th goal in his first game since cutting his long hair.

It was Hayes' fifth goal in eight games.

Talbot earned his fourth shutout this season and seventh in his NHL career. He improved to 7-1-2 in place of injured No. 1 goalie Henrik Lundqvist, and



Vancouver Canucks right wing Zack Kassian celebrates his goal against the Boston Bruins during the third period of an NHL hockey game in Boston, Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015. The Canucks won 2-1. Associated Press

helped New York win for the 10th time in 13 games (10-1-2).

The Rangers did it without leading scorer Rick Nash (neck spasms), who missed his first game of the season. New York didn't yield a power play.

Islanders 5, Coyotes 1

UNIONDALE, N.Y. (AP) — Matt Martin and Johnny Boychuk scored less than a minute apart early in the third to break a tie.

Martin's eighth goal of the season snapped a 1-1 tie before Boychuk added his seventh at 4:15. The win kept the Islanders atop the Metropolitan Division.

Kael Moullierat — his first goal in the NHL — and Brock Nelson also scored in the third as the Coyotes lost for the seventh straight time. Moullierat's goal

came at 7:16 while Nelson's was at 9:10. Colin McDonald assisted on both. Backup Chad Johnson made 27 saves. It was Johnson's fourth start in 11 games. He improved to 8-7-1 on the season.

Sabres 4, Blue Jackets 2

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Zemgus Girgensons had a goal and an assist before leaving with a leg injury. Cody Hodgson, Mark Pysyk and Chris Stewart also scored for the offense-starved Sabres, who had gotten just one goal in five of their previous six games. They hadn't had as many as four goals in their last 13 games.

Michal Neuvirth had 45 saves, stymieing the Blue Jackets on their final 28 shots.

The Sabres, with the worst

record in the NHL, had lost six of seven (1-4-2).

Matt Calvert and Kevin Connauton scored for the Blue Jackets. Rookie goalie Anton Forsberg remained winless at 0-4-0 while making 27 saves.

Hurricanes 4, Flyers 1

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Justin Faulk had a goal and an assist in the 500th NHL game for Hurricanes goalie Cam Ward.

Ward, who earned the Conn Smythe Trophy when Carolina won the Stanley Cup in 2006, made 23 saves.

Jeff Skinner, Jordan Staal and Jay McClement also scored for Carolina. Alexander Semin added two assists.

Nicklas Grossmann scored in the first period for the Flyers, who lost in regulation

for just the second time in their past 14 games (8-2-4). Flyers goalie Rob Zepp stopped 31 shots.

The Flyers (63 points) are four points behind the Boston Bruins for the final playoff position in the Eastern Conference.

Canadiens 5, Blues 2

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Alex Galchenyuk and Brendan Gallagher had two goals apiece and Carey Price set a franchise record with his ninth straight road win. Montreal held onto the top spot in the Eastern Conference.

David Backes and T.J. Oshie scored for the Blues, who wrapped up a 1-3 homestand. St. Louis is among the Western Conference leaders with 78 points, but has surrendered the first goal in eight consecutive home games.

Price made 27 saves and topped the record he'd shared with Rogie Vachon (1968-69). He has allowed more than two goals just once in his last 15 games.

The Canadiens have won nine of 10 on the road overall and have 83 points, staying a point ahead of the Islanders for first in the East.

Predators 5, Avalanche 2

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Calle Jarnkrok, Craig Smith, Roman Josi and Filip Forsberg scored to help Nashville.

Pekka Rinne made 18 saves in his NHL-best 35th win, and the Predators padded their lead atop the NHL standings with 89 points. Nashville also clinched the season series with its Central Division rival at 3-1 with a game remaining. □

Running back Reggie Bush released by Detroit Lions

ALLEN PARK, Mich. (AP) —

The Detroit Lions have released running back Reggie Bush. After joining the team as an unrestricted free agent from Miami in 2013, Bush played started 23 of 25 games and had 299 carries for 1,303 yards and six touchdowns. He

also had 94 catches for 759 yards and three touchdowns. Last season, Bush finished with 76 carries for 297 yards and two touchdowns, and 40 catches for 253 yards. His 40 receptions ranked third on the team.

Bush was the No. 2 overall selection by the New

Orleans Saints in the 2006 draft. Bush played five seasons with the Saints (2006-10) before spending two seasons with the Dolphins. In nine NFL seasons, Bush has started 94 of 116 games and has 1,266 carries for 5,465 yards and 35 touchdowns. □



Detroit Lions running back Reggie Bush (21) carries the ball during the first half of an NFL wildcard playoff football game against the Dallas Cowboys, Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015, in Arlington, Texas. (AP)

Curry returns to lead Warriors to win at Washington

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Stephen Curry returned from a one-game absence to lead all scorers with 32, Klay Thompson added 17 more and the Golden State Warriors defeated the Washington Wizards 114-107 Tuesday night.

Curry missed Sunday's loss at Indiana with a sore right foot and played nearly 34 minutes, hitting 11 of 18 field goal attempts, including five of nine from 3-point range.

Marreese Speights added 16 points off the bench for the Warriors, who have won five of six.

Paul Pierce led the Wizards with 25 points, 18 in the second half. Marcin Gortat added 16 points and 11 rebounds, while John Wall chipped in 16 and 11 assists. Washington has lost four straight and nine of 11.

CAVALIERS 102, PISTONS 93
AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)

— Kevin Love tied a career-best with eight 3-pointers for 24 points and LeBron James added 19 points and 11 assists as the Cleveland Cavaliers rallied in the second half.

Love fell just one short of



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) shoots in front of Indiana Pacers guard George Hill (3) during the third quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015.

Associated Press

teammate J.R. Smith's record of nine 3-pointers against Detroit. Love missed both his two-point attempts. James nearly had an odd

triple-double, turning the ball over nine times, one short of his career high. Kyrie Irving added 18 points for Cleveland, which has won 17 of its last 19 games. Reggie Jackson had 22 points, nine assists and eight rebounds in his second game with Detroit, while Kentavious Caldwell-Pope added 21.

Tayshaun Prince started at small forward in his first game as a Piston since he was traded to Memphis in January 2013.

THUNDER 105, PACERS 92

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Russell Westbrook had 20 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists, and the Thunder picked up their seventh straight win.

Westbrook claimed his third triple-double of the season and the 11th of his career, despite resting for the entire fourth quarter.

Serge Ibaka had 23 points and 10 rebounds and Enes Kanter added 15 points for the Thunder.

Oklahoma City won its third straight without Kevin Durant. The reigning MVP had a screw replaced on his surgically repaired right foot on Sunday, and he is

to be re-evaluated within a week.

C.J. Miles scored 21 points, George Hill scored 13 and David West and Solomon Hill each added 11 for the Pacers, who had won three straight.

MAVERICKS 99, RAPTORS 92

DALLAS (AP) — Monta Ellis scored 20 points and Dirk Nowitzki had 18 as the Dallas Mavericks hit seven of their first 10 shots of the fourth quarter to defeat the Toronto Raptors.

The victory was Dallas' third straight, its longest winning streak since early January, and pulled the Mavericks within one game of first-place Houston in the Southwest Division.

DeMar DeRozan led the Raptors with 18 points. Toronto closed a stretch of four road games in five days with its third consecutive loss, one short of its season high. The Raptors are second in the Eastern Conference, their lead over No. 3 Chicago shrinking to one game.

Dallas' Rajon Rondo sat the final 20 minutes after having words with Mavericks head coach Rick Carlisle during a timeout. □

Mavs suspend Rondo for 1 game after exchange with Rick Carlisle

ATLANTA (AP) - The Mavericks suspended Rajon Rondo for Wednesday's night game in Atlanta for conduct detrimental to the team, a day after the point guard had a heated exchange on the court with coach Rick Carlisle and was benched.

Related Stories

Rajon Rondo and Rick Carlisle get heated with each other, Mavericks point guard benched (video) NBC Sports

Rajon Rondo's argument with his coach proves the honeymoon is over SB Nation

Ellis, Nowitzki pace Mavericks to 99-92 victory over Raptors The Associated Press

Rondo benched after argument with Carlisle Comcast

SportsNet New England Rajon Rondo to play against Thunder on Thursday NBC Sports

Rondo came out with 8:10 remaining in the third quarter of Dallas' 99-92 win over Toronto at home Tuesday. He was bringing the ball up the court when Carlisle angrily shouted for a timeout and exchanged words with Rondo from several feet away as the player headed to the bench.

The Mavericks were trailing by nine when Rondo was pulled and rallied with backups Devin Harris and J.J. Barea running the offense along with leading scorer Monta Ellis, who sometimes handles the ball.

The team didn't comment beyond Wednesday's an-

nouncement of the one-game suspension. Carlisle was expected to meet with reporters before the game against the Hawks.

Acquired in a trade with Boston in December to try to improve the playoff outlook for the Mavericks in the difficult Western Conference, Rondo hasn't had an easy transition.

The four-time All-Star who won a title with the Celtics in 2008 was on the bench in the final minutes of a four-point loss to Chicago about a month after the trade and said afterward he didn't have a problem with Carlisle's decision. Dallas' offense has sunk from the top of the league to fourth in points per game since he arrived.

Also brought in to improve



Toronto Raptors center Jonas Valanciunas, left, reaches for the ball against Dallas Mavericks guard Rajon Rondo (9) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015, in Dallas.

Associated Press

the Mavericks' perimeter defense with a long list of strong guards in the West, Rondo had some success against Houston's James Harden and Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook before breaking a bone near his left eye at Orlando and missing six games.

In his first game back after

the All-Star break, Rondo couldn't slow Westbrook in a blowout loss to the Thunder. He bounced back with a solid outing in a win over Harden and the Rockets.

The Mavericks made the move for Rondo after off-season pickup Jameer Nelson struggled at the point. □

Latest injury to Derrick Rose hits Bulls hard



In this Feb. 10, 2015, file photo, Chicago Bulls guard Derrick Rose (1) drives past Sacramento Kings guard Ben McLemore (23) as Jason Thompson (34) watches during an NBA basketball game in Chicago.

AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) -- The news that Derrick Rose will have knee surgery again hit the Chicago Bulls and their fans hard and left them in a familiar spot - trying to get by without their star point guard.

The torn meniscus in his right knee was announced Tuesday night, another tough twist for a franchise, a star, his sponsors and a fanbase that thought the Bulls were entering another golden era just a few years ago, with the Chicago product leading the renaissance. Instead, he's having surgery on his right knee for the second straight year - on the heels of a season he missed entirely following a torn left ACL.

"It's so unfair," Bulls coach Tom Thibodeau said. "The guy's been through so much. Anytime you have surgery, it's tough. This will hopefully be much, much shorter than the other one. But the big thing is our concern for him first as a person."

Rose's rise from growing up in a tough Chicago neighborhood to stardom with his hometown team is well-documented. He has

a maximum contract with the Bulls and a huge marketing deal with Adidas.

But in some ways, this era is feeling like a big tease for the Bulls and their fans.

Instead of celebrating a championship for the first time since the Michael Jordan-Scottie Pippen era, they have suffered through close calls and long waits while Rose recovers.

It wasn't what the Bulls envisioned after taking him with the first pick in the 2008 draft. He went from Rookie of the Year to All-Star to MVP in his first three seasons, becoming the youngest player to win that award in 2011 while leading Chicago to 62 wins and the Eastern Conference finals.

But the feel-good story took a drastic turn the following season when Rose crumpled to the court with a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee in the playoff opener. The top-seeded Bulls bowed out in the first round against the Philadelphia 76ers.

Rose sat out the 2012-13 season, and his long-awaited comeback last season ended at 10 games.

"I'm still shocked," Kirk Hin-

rich said. "I didn't have any idea he had an injury like that (Tuesday) at practice. I just feel for him. You can't imagine what he's gone through these last three years. Just when it seems like he was hitting his stride and playing great and it kind of felt like he had put it behind him, for this to happen is just devastating." Thibodeau said Wednesday it's not clear when the injury happened or when team physician Dr. Brian Cole will perform the surgery. He was not sure how long Rose will be out, either. If he misses the remainder of the year, it would be his third season-ending knee surgery.

"Heartbreaking, in a way, because of how much he's been through for the last couple of years," Pau Gasol said. "Difficult to deal with. We feel for him."

Rose's return combined with the addition of Gasol as part of an offseason makeover had them thinking big again. The news came when the Bulls appeared to be picking up steam and putting their recent struggles behind them.

They had won six of seven

and were leading Cleveland by a half game in the Central division at 36-21 before hosting Charlotte on Wednesday.

Rose, who played in just 10 games last year after sitting out the 2012-13 season following surgery on his left knee, is averaging 18.4 points and 5.0 assists. He had played in 19 straight games and 30 of 31, easing concerns about his knee.

Rose appeared to be

rounding into form, averaging 22.6 points over his final 14 games before the All-Star break. But he struggled in three games after that.

He had eight points on 1-for-13 shooting while playing almost 33 minutes in Monday night's 87-71 victory over Milwaukee. He averaged 10.7 points on 23.5 percent shooting in Chicago's first three games after the break. □



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SAT 3:50 | 6:00 | 8:20 | 10:40
SUN & HOL 3:50 | 6:00 | 8:20

MON-THURS 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30
FRI 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30 | 11:50
SAT 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30

ON TWO SCREENS



OLIVIA WILDE | EVAN PETERS

THE LAZARUS EFFECT

MON-THURS 5:35 | 7:35 | 9:35
FRI 5:35 | 7:35 | 9:35 | 11:35
SAT 3:35 | 5:35 | 7:35 | 9:35 | 11:35
SUN & HOL 3:35 | 5:35 | 7:35 | 9:35



COLIN FIRTH | TARON EGERTON

**Kingsman
THE SECRET SERVICE**

MON-FRI 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20
SAT 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20
SUN & HOL 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20



DAKOTA JOHNSON | JAMIE DORNAN

FIFTY SHADES OF GREY

MON-THURS 4:05 | 6:45 | 9:25
FRI 4:05 | 6:45 | 9:25
SAT SAT 1:50 | 4:05 | 6:45 | 9:25
SUN & HOL 1:50 | 4:05 | 6:45 | 9:25



ANTONIO BANDERAS | TOM KENNY

**THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE
SPONGE OUT OF WATER**

3D VERSION
MON-THURS 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:35
FRI 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:35 | 10:45
SAT 2:10 | 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:35 | 10:45
SUN & HOL 2:10 | 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:35
2D VERSION
MON-FRI 5:00 | 7:05
SAT 2:55 | 5:00 | 7:05
SUN & HOL 2:55 | 5:00 | 7:05



CHANNING TATUM | MILA KUNIS

JUPITER ASCENDING

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 9:10
FRI 9:10 | 12:00
SAT 9:10 | 12:00
SUN & HOL 9:10

KEVIN HART | JOSH GAD

The Wedding Ringer

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20
FRI 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20 | 11:35
SAT 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20 | 11:35
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This Feb. 20, 2015, aerial photo taken from the window of a commercial airliner shows the former Hollywood Park horse track in Inglewood, Calif. Associated Press

Council OKs L.A.-area stadium backed by Rams owner

INGLEWOOD, California (AP) — The NFL moved a step closer to returning to Los Angeles after Inglewood City Council approved plans on Tuesday to build a stadium that includes St. Louis Rams owner Stan Kroenke as a partner.

The council approved the \$2 billion plan with a 5-0 vote after a meeting with several hours of public comment and many vocal Rams fans wearing jerseys in attendance. There were only a handful of dissenters. The vote adopts a new redevelopment plan without calling a public vote, sidestepping lengthy environmental reviews of issues such as noise, traffic and air pollution. Christopher Meany, executive vice-president of the Hollywood Park Land Development Company, emphasized that the plan does not include any taxpayer dollars.

It adds the 80,000-seat stadium to an existing 2009 plan to redevelop the former Hollywood Park race-track site with homes, offices, stores, parks and open space and a hotel. Kroenke is part of the Hollywood Park Land Co. development group that is promoting the project. But a plan is also in the works in St. Louis in hopes of keeping the team with a 64,000-seat stadium on the city's north riverfront.

New urgency for the plan came last week with the announcement that the Oakland Raiders and the San Diego Chargers are planning a shared stadium in suburban Carson if they don't get their current hometowns to cough up enough money to replace their aging stadiums. Another stadium plan remains alive for downtown Los Angeles, but has no team attached. □

Yoan Moncada arrives at Red Sox spring training facility



In this Nov. 12, 2014 photo, Cuban baseball player Yoan Moncada prepares for an exhibition game for major league scouts, in the Enrique Torrealba Stadium in Guatemala City.

Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP) — Yoan Moncada arrived Wednesday at the spring training headquarters of the Boston Red Sox, another step toward completion of a hefty contract for the 19-year-old Cuban.

The Red Sox and Moncada's agent reached an agreement earlier this week on a deal with a \$31.5 million signing bonus, a record for an under-23 international amateur player. Moncada had physical exams scheduled this week in both Florida and Boston, before the contract can be finalized. His representative, David Hastings, said earlier this week he hoped the deal

would be finalized by Friday.

Wearing a white T-shirt, jeans and sneakers, Moncada entered the club's spring training complex in Fort Myers just after 8 a.m. and walked straight into the offices.

Red Sox chairman Tom Werner said there's still not a signed deal in place with Moncada.

President and chief executive officer Larry Lucchino and owner John Henry met with Moncada, a switch-hitting middle infielder with five-tool potential. The Red Sox will pay \$63 million to get him, due to a 100 percent tax required by Major League Baseball for ex-

ceeding their international signing bonus pool allotment.

"There are a lot of strong feelings on that subject within the game. Some people favor an international draft to level the playing field so to speak, and that's a little above our pay grade," Lucchino said. "It's a CBA issue that has to be addressed. We'll play by whatever rules there are and take advantage of whatever we can on behalf of the Red Sox. I do think there's a lot of sensitivity to that issue on the baseball side and the players association. We'll see. The CBA's coming up." □

HAL wins: Computer program bests humans at 'Space Invaders'

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Computers already have bested human champions in "Jeopardy!" and chess, but artificial intelligence now has gone to master an entirely new level: "Space Invaders."

Google scientists have cooked up software that can do better than humans on dozens of Atari video games from the 1980s, like video pinball, boxing, and "Breakout." But computers don't seem to have a ghost of a chance at "Ms. Pac-Man." The aim is not to make video games a spectator sport, turning couch potatoes who play games into couch potatoes who watch computers play games. The real accomplishment: computers that can teach themselves to succeed at tasks, learning from scratch, trial and error, just like humans.

The computer program, called Deep Q-network, wasn't given much in the way of instructions to start, but in time it did better than humans in 29 out of 49 games and in some cases, like video pinball, it did 26 times better, according to a new study released Wednesday by the journal Nature. It's a first time an artificial intelligence program bridged different type of learning systems, said study author

Demis Hassabis of Google DeepMind in London.

Deep Q "can learn and adapt to unexpected things," Hassabis said in a news conference. "These types of systems are more human-like in the way they learn."

In the submarine game "Seaquest," Deep Q came up with a strategy that the scientists had never considered.

"It's definitely fun to see computers discover things that you didn't figure out yourself," said study co-author Volodymyr Mnih, also of Google.

Sebastian Thrun, director of the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory at Stanford University, who wasn't part of the research, said in an email: "This is very impressive. Most people don't understand how far (artificial intelligence) has come. And this is just the beginning."

Nothing about Deep Q is customized to Atari or to a specific game. The idea is to create a "general learning system" that can figure tasks out by trial and error and eventually to stuff even humans have difficulty with, Hassabis said. This program, he said, "is the first rung of the ladder."

Carnegie Mellon University computer science professor Emma Brunskill, who also wasn't part of the study, said this learning de-

spite lack of customization "brings us closer to having general purpose agents equipped to work well at learning a large range of tasks, instead of just chess or just 'Jeopardy!'"

To go from pixels on a

book all the flights and hotels on its own "and it sorts it all out as if you have a personal assistant," Hassabis said.

But to some ways of thinking, Deep Q wasn't even as smart as a toddler be-

try the system on more complicated games of the 1990s and beyond, perhaps a complicated game like "Civilization," where gamers create an entire empire to see if it can stand the test of time.



In this Oct. 5, 2004 file photo, a youth tries a Ms. Pac-Man TV game in New York.

Associated Press

screen to making decisions on what to do next, without even a hint of pre-programmed guidance, "is really exciting," Brunskill said. "We do that as people."

The idea is that when the system gets scaled up, maybe it could work like asking a phone to plan a complete trip to Europe,

cause it can't transfer learned experiences from one situation to another and it doesn't get abstract concepts, Hassabis said.

Deep Q had trouble with "Ms. Pac Man" and "Montezuma's Revenge" because they are games that involve more planning ahead, he said.

Next, the scientists will

Deep Q isn't showing what Hassabis would call creativity, he said: "I would call it figuring out something that already existed in the world."

Creativity would be if the program created its own computer game, Hassabis said. Artificial intelligence isn't there, he said.

At least not yet. □

In Apple's latest update, emojis get diverse

NEW YORK (AP) — Lovers of emojis, the cute graphics that punctuate online writing and texts, will soon be able to pick from different skin tones and depictions of families with two moms or two dads on Apple devices.

Apple Inc. has incorporated more diverse emojis into the developer version of the latest update to its mobile operating system. The iPhone and iPad maker has not said when the update will be available for all users.

Currently almost all the emojis depicting people or body parts, such as a fist or bicep, look white on Apple devices and other platforms. More cartoon-like faces that are smiling, crying, winking or suggestive of other emotions come in a shade of yellow reminiscent of "The Simpsons" characters.

An Apple spokeswoman said Tuesday that the company is working with the Unicode Consortium, the nonprofit organization that sets the standards for the picto-



This combination made from images provided by Apple Inc. shows new emoji, the cute graphics that punctuate online writing and texts, that will be available with the next iOS update.

Associated Press

grams, "to update the standard so that it better represents diversity for all of us."

Unicode last fall proposed adding five new

skin color options for emojis. A Unicode technical report says users worldwide want emojis that better reflect global diversity.

Apple is adding more than 300 additional emoji, including new icons of gay families and 32 new country flags.

Devices made by Cupertino, California-based Apple as well as those running Google Inc.'s Android operating system dominate the smartphone and tablet market.

Google spokeswoman Liz Markman said the Mountain View, California, company said it had no news to share Tuesday regarding diverse emojis. □

Uber, Starwood partner on points program

S. MAYEROWITZ
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Uber is partnering with hotel chain Starwood to give riders a bit more incentive to choose the ride-hailing service over a taxi.

Uber passengers can now earn one Starwood rewards point for each dollar they spend on a ride in a car found through the San Francisco-based company's mobile app.

Guests spending the night at one of Starwood's 1,200 hotels will earn two to four

points per dollar spent, depending on their level of status with Stamford, Connecticut-based Starwood. Points can't be earned until the Uber passenger spends at least one night during the calendar year at a Starwood hotel.

Free hotel nights start at 3,000 points for the lowest tier of hotels, like the Four Points by Sheraton Tucson Airport in Arizona, and can be as high as 35,000 points a night for properties like the St. Regis Princeville Resort in Hawaii.

This is the first global deal where ground transportation passengers can earn hotel points for trips.

This potentially helps Uber in big cities such as New York, San Paulo, Brazil and Bangalore, India where it's going head to head with established taxi companies and car services.

Some airport car services do offer passengers airline miles for their trips, but those programs are open to a number of airlines. This new Uber partnership is ex-

clusive to Starwood. Neither company would disclose the terms of the deal. The hotel company, known for its Sheraton, Westin and W brands, already has similar partnerships with Delta Air Lines and Emirate Airline. "Our guests get to us in many different ways," says Mark Vondrasek, Starwood's senior vice president of loyalty and partnership marketing. Through these partnerships, "we're trying to get members to concentrate their stays with us." □

Awesome! Lego transformations reaping rewards

COPENHAGEN, Denmark

(AP) — The transformation of Lego, the Danish toy company famous for its multi-colored building blocks, reaped further dividends last year as it benefited from a successful foray into the world of cinema.

The privately-owned company, which over the past few years has moved beyond its multi-colored toy blocks,

said Wednesday that its sales in 2014 rose 13 percent to 28.6 billion kroner (\$4.3 billion),

with the product line related to the early-year release of The Lego Movie proving a "significant contributor to sales growth."

Lego isn't just about kids building a house with an assortment of blocks.

As well as making movies, it has a host of popular mobile phone apps and theme parks.

And its traditional business has morphed too — most children, and their parents, build things like the Millennium Falcon from Star Wars and Batman's Copter to a pre-set outline. Lego said demand was particularly strong in its largest market, the U.S., but sales also rose by double digits in Britain, France, Russia and China. Sales are expected to grow this year too, though no forecasts were provided.

Overall, Lego saw a 15 percent increase in net profit last year to 7 billion kroner (\$1 billion) and said it invested 3.1 billion kroner in 2014 to locate production closer to core markets and upgrade equipment, including in China, Mexico, Czech Republic, and its core molding plant in Denmark.

Lego doesn't release quarterly figures. It is not publicly listed but has published earnings reports since 1997. It employs 12,500 people, up from 11,750 in 2013. □

Dow ekes out record close as other indexes slip

ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

The Dow Jones industrial average notched its third record high close in a row Wednesday, even as other market indexes ended lower.

Trading was relatively subdued as investors reviewed the latest corporate earnings news. Utilities stocks were among the biggest decliners. Energy stocks rebounded as oil prices broke a five-day slide and climbed back above \$50 a barrel.

Wall Street also kept an eye on Federal Reserve Chief Janet Yellen's second appearance before Congress in two days. Her remarks didn't generate any major market-moving news. A day earlier, Yellen suggested that the Fed is not in a hurry to raise interest rates.

"The market is just trying to figure out whether the next move is up or down," said David Lebovitz, global market strategist at J.P. Morgan Asset Management.

The Dow ended up 15.38 points, or 0.1 percent, to 18,224.57. McDonald's was the biggest gainer in the 30-company index, climbing 3.9 percent.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index slipped 1.62 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,113.86. The Nasdaq shed 1 point, or 0.02 percent, to 4,967.14. The three indexes are all up for the year.

The Dow and S&P 500



Specialist Ronnie Howard, right, works at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The Dow Jones industrial average notched its third record high close in a row Wednesday, even as other market indexes ended lower.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

closed at record highs on Tuesday after investors were encouraged by Yellen's remarks on interest rates. Lower rates make borrowing easier and tend to be a plus for financial markets. The Fed has kept its benchmark rate near zero since 2008. Most economists anticipate that a rate increase is not likely before June or even later this year. A key factor in that decision will be inflation. That's one reason investors will be focused on the release of the latest consumer price index on Thursday.

"That should provide a little bit of insight on what the Fed's next move might be and when it may occur," Lebovitz said.

The three indexes opened lower on Wednesday, then veered between small gains and losses through much of the day. In the last hour of trading, the Dow eked out a gain.

Hewlett-Packard and Boston Beer slumped early. Both reported disappointing quarterly results late Tuesday. Hewlett-Packard tumbled 9.9 percent, while the brewer of Samuel Adams beer sank 10.3 percent. Chesapeake Energy and Lumber Liquidators also declined after reporting weak earnings early Wednesday. Chesapeake fell 9.6 percent, while the hardwood floors retailer slid 26.4 percent.

Investors bid up shares in

several companies whose latest quarterly earnings fared better.

TJX, the parent company of T.J. Maxx and Marshalls, rose 3.3 percent after its profit beat analysts' expectations. The company also said would raise wages for its workers.

Benefitfocus vaulted 47.2 percent, while specialty contracting services company Dycom Industries surged 17 percent. Discount retailer Dollar Tree rose 2.2 percent.

In all, half of the 10 sectors in the S&P 500 moved lower. Utilities stocks fell 1.6 percent and are now down 4 percent this year. Consumer discretionary stocks notched the biggest gain.

TJ Maxx, Marshalls to follow Wal-Mart in raising pay

NEW YORK (AP)—The owner of T.J. Maxx, Marshalls and Home Goods stores said Wednesday that it will boost pay for its U.S. workers to at least \$9 per hour. The announcement by TJX Cos. comes a week after Wal-Mart Stores Inc. said it would increase wages for its employees and is a sign that more competitors may follow suit. Low-paying retailers are hav-

ing a harder time retaining workers as the job market improves.

"This pay initiative is an important part of our strategies to continue attracting and retaining the best talent," CEO Carol Meyrowitz said in a statement.

TJX spokeswoman Doreen Thompson declined to say what workers currently earn. A recent Credit Suisse report estimates

TJX's current hourly pay at about \$8.24. The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour.

TJX said hourly workers will start to receive the pay increase in June. In 2016, the company plans to pay all associates who have worked at its stores for more than six months at least \$10 per hour.

The company's 191,000 associates around the world

restock shelves, greet customers and ring up purchases at the cash register. Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer, is raising entry level wages to at least \$9 an hour in April and to at least \$10 an hour by February of next year. Wal-Mart said the change will affect about 500,000 workers. Also this year, Swedish furniture seller Ikea gave workers at its U.S. division a

17 percent average raise to \$10.76 an hour. And clothing chain Gap Inc. raised its minimum hourly wage to \$9 last year and to \$10 this year.

TJX, based in Framingham, Massachusetts, operates 3,395 stores, including six of its outdoor goods chain Sierra Trading Post. Its shares rose 53 cents to \$68.27 in morning trading Wednesday. □

Target reports 4Q loss on Canada pullout; outlook cautious

A. D'INNOCENZIO

AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Target Corp. delivered a cautious profit outlook for the first quarter and reported a loss in its fourth quarter, dragged down by costs to end its money-losing foray in Canada.

But the discount retailer recorded stronger-than-expected sales during the holiday period as shoppers bought more clothing and other items.

The results, which included the second consecutive increase in a key sales measure in a year, come a little more than a month after the discounter announced it was giving up on Canada and focusing on revving up its U.S. business.

The closing was the first major move by CEO Brian Cornell, who took over last August and who is charged with reclaiming the retailer's image as a purveyor of cheap chic fashions.

The results also show how



A customer walks past a bank of flat screen televisions at a Target store in South Portland, Maine. Target Corp. reported quarterly financial results on Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015.

(AP Photo/Robert F. Bukaty)

the Minneapolis-based company is successfully moving past a massive data breach disclosed a week before Christmas 2013 that compromised millions of credit and debit cards. That caused shoppers to flee for months and hurt sales and profits. It was one of the

major reasons behind the abrupt departure of CEO Gregg Steinhafel, who resigned last May.

Target's business is benefiting as middle-income shoppers are feeling some relief from lower gas prices and from an improving economy. But Target says that its

moves to bring in trendier merchandise and cater to shoppers who are increasingly going online have been the bigger factors behind stronger sales.

The discounter has been playing catch-up online and revamping its apps. It also reduced its minimum

online purchase to qualify for free shipping in half to \$25. Target had a successful shopper reception to its free shipping offer with no strings attached over the holiday season.

During a media call, Chief Financial Officer John Mulligan emphasized that Target shoppers who buy online and in stores spend more and are more engaged. Digital sales increased 30 percent during the quarter. He noted that Target's online sales account for about 2.5 percent to 3 percent of the company's total sales. Even before Cornell took the helm, Target had begun to reassess its operations, sprucing up its baby departments and adding mannequins to its fashion areas. Cornell wants to double down on a handful of areas like children's products and furniture. It is also re-imagining its grocery area and wants to focus on products unique to Target. □

Lowe's has strong 4Q as consumers tackle home projects

M. CHAPMAN

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Lowe's fourth-quarter profit climbed as an improving economy gave homeowners more confidence to take on home projects.

The U.S. employment landscape has continued to mend, with the nation adding more than a million jobs in the past three months. That's the fastest clip in 17 years.

That has created marginal improvements in the housing market. While the Com-

merce Department reported Wednesday that new home sales were basically flat in January, the performance was still better than a year ago when extremely harsh winter weather caused home-buying to stall. Home values are on the rise thanks to a tight inventory and many economists expect the market will improve in the spring.

Chairman and CEO Robert Niblock said during a conference call on Wednesday that the job market and household finances

are expected to strengthen this year. That, combined with a rise in credit card use and lower gas prices, has set the stage for more spending at home, he said.

"We are seeing consumers re-engage," he said.

For the three months ended Jan. 30, Lowe's posted earnings of \$450 million, or 46 cents per share. A year earlier it earned \$306 million, or 29 cents per share. The average estimate of analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research was

for earnings of 44 cents per share.

Revenue for the Mooresville, North Carolina, company rose to \$12.54 billion from \$11.66 billion. Analysts expected \$12.29 billion, according to Zacks.

Sales at stores open at least a year climbed 7.3 percent, and 7.4 percent if only U.S. stores are counted. The figure is a key indicator of a retailer's health because it excludes volatility from stores recently opened or closed.

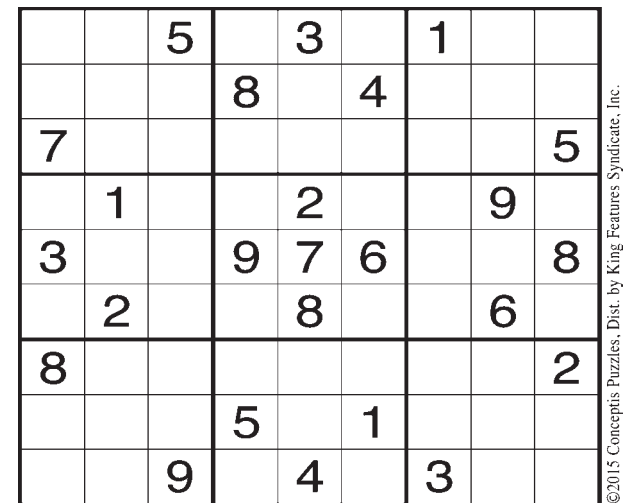
Lowe's, the country's

second-largest home improvement retailer, reported a 2014 profit of \$2.71 per share on revenue of \$56.22 billion.

The company anticipates earnings this year of about \$3.29 per share. Revenue is expected to climb 4.5 percent to 5 percent. Analysts polled by FactSet called for earnings of \$3.28 per share.

Lowe's Cos. had 1,840 home improvement and hardware stores in the U.S., Canada and Mexico at quarter's end. □

Conceptis Sudoku



2/14

Yesterday's puzzle answer	4	5	2	9	7	3	8	6	1
	3	8	9	6	4	1	7	5	2
	6	7	1	5	2	8	4	9	3
	8	3	6	7	9	4	2	1	5
	5	9	4	1	6	2	3	8	7
	1	2	7	3	8	5	9	4	6
	9	4	5	2	3	6	1	7	8
	7	1	3	8	5	9	6	2	4
	2	6	8	4	1	7	5	3	9

I'm a modern woman!

I don't have to wait!

I'm just gonna do it!

send!

Aaargh! What have I done???

DING -

Will u be my ♥?
-AMY

Reply OK!

YEE-HA

2/14

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DID I TELL YOU ABOUT THAT GIRL WHO GAVE ME A VALENTINE?

YES, YOU DID, ELMO

I DID, HUH?

WELL, AT MY TENDER AGE, THAT'S ALL I'VE GOT SO FAR

THE BALL'S BACK IN YOUR COURT, MR. B.

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www.911online.com

I'M GOING TO TAKE CARLA OUT FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

OH, THE ONE WITH THE BOSTON ACCENT?

YEAH, I WAS GOING TO BUY HER SOME CHOCOLATES, BUT ALL SHE WANTS IS A BIG FISH

NO, I SAID BRING ME A COD... A VALENTINE'S COD

Mike Rodden

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2/14

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- 1 BPOE
- members
- 5 Accumulate
- 10 Talk back
- 14 Gather crops
- 15 __ yokel; small-
- town resident
- 16 Applaud
- 17 Learn by __;
- memorize
- 18 Game often run
- by the state
- 19 Monster
- 20 Moved furtively
- 22 Bawl out
- 24 Door opener
- 25 Experienced
- 26 Gracie or Steve
- 29 Rooster's mate
- 30 Approaches
- 34 Sweetheart
- 35 Sunbather's
- reward
- 36 McArdle or
- Mitchell
- 37 Initials for the
- phone inventor

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Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/14/15

3	Actress Winslet	L	I	N	E	S	S	H	A	M	F	A	N	S		
4	Orator	A	R	I	S	E	H	I	D	E	O	P	E	N		
5	Narrow street	P	O	N	C	E	I	T	S	A	R	A	R	E		
6	In a bad ____; cranky	S	N	E	A	K	E	R	S	S	W	E	R	V	E	
7	Play a role			P	I	N	K			P	L	O	T	T	E	R
8	Ringed planet	A	S	C	E	N	D	P	A	Y	A	E				
9	Skier's incline	B	A	H	G	O	B	E	L	S	L	A	C	K		
10	Rejected with contempt	L	I	A	R	W	I	S	E	D	L	I	O	N		
11	Seaweed	E	L	D	E	R	L	O	S	E	S	M	A	E		
12	Indira's attire			F	O	A	L	S	C	H	A	S	T	E		
13	Ran fast	O	C	T	O	P	U	S	F	A	I	R				
21	Actor ____ Berry	C	L	A	R	E	T	R	I	F	F	R	A	F	F	
23	Bandleader ____ Goodman	C	O	L	E	H	O	A	X	T	I	B	I	A		
		U	S	E	S	O	N	C	E	E	V	E	N	T		
25	First book in	R	E	S	T	R	E	E	D	D	E	S	K	S		

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2/14/15

DOWN
1 Makes a mistake
2 Uris or Panetta

27 Allowed by law	38 Chop finely	52 Actor James ____
28 Can wrapper	39 ____ as a beet	53 Sequoia or ash
29 ____ a thin skin; is easily hurt	42 Well-educated	54 Bottle stopper
31 Passion	44 Sad	55 ____ mater; one's former school
32 Peruses	46 Keep	56 Cuts off
33 Wooden shoe	47 Armed conflict	57 In case
35 ____-tac-toe	49 Corridors	60 Sheep's cry
36 Drink served in a schooner	50 Handbag	
	51 TKO callers	

Justices overturn conviction for undersize catch

© 2015 New York Times
WASHINGTON - A narrowly divided Supreme Court on

Wednesday sided with a Florida fisherman, throwing out his conviction for toss-

ing evidence - undersize grouper - back into the Gulf of Mexico under a federal law aimed mostly at white-collar crime.

The fisherman, John L. Yates, was convicted of violating the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, which imposes a maximum sentence of 20 years for the destruction of "any record, document or tangible object" in order to obstruct an investigation. In a pair of opinions, five justices accepted Yates' argument that fish are not the sort of tangible objects with which the law was concerned. Their analysis was based on a close reading of the words and structure of the law.

The case arose from a 2007 search of the Miss Katie, Yates' fishing vessel. A Florida field officer, John Jones, boarded it at sea and noticed fish that seemed fewer than 20 inches long, which was under the minimum legal size of red grouper at the time. Jones, an officer with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and a federal deputy, measured the fish and placed the 72 he deemed too small in a crate. He issued a citation and instructed Yates to take the crate to port for seizure.

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TAXI-TAS	587-5900
PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
SERVICE ARUBA	583-3232

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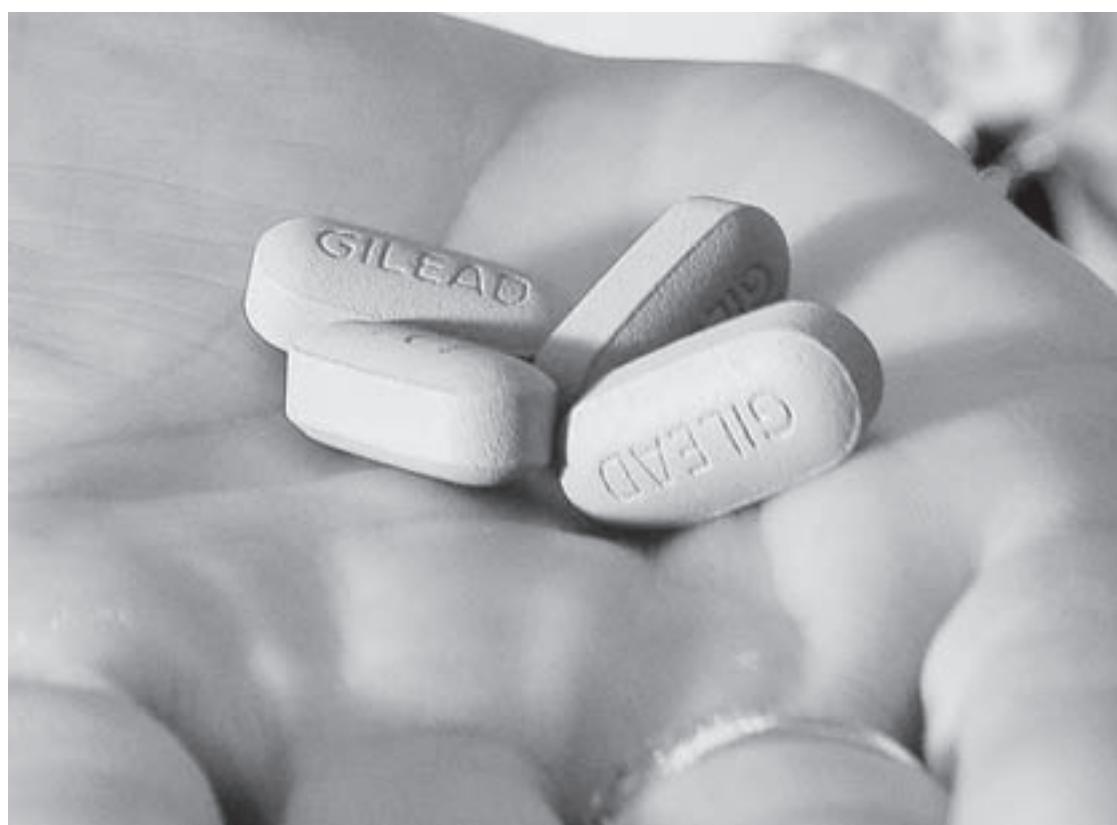
Pills before and after sex can help prevent HIV

MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP Chief Medical Writer
SEATTLE (AP) — For the

first time, a study shows that a drug used to treat HIV infection also can help prevent it when taken before and after risky sex by gay men.

The results offer hope of a more appealing way to help prevent the disease beyond taking daily pills and using condoms, although those methods are still considered best. The study, done in France and Canada, is the first to test "on demand" use of Truvada, a pill combining two AIDS drugs, by people planning to have risky sex. The uninfected men who took it were 86 percent less likely to get HIV compared to men given dummy pills.

"That impressed me," Dr. Scott Hammer said of the size of the benefit. He is an AIDS specialist at Columbia University in New York and heads the Retrovirus Conference going on in Seattle, where the results were discussed Tuesday.



In this Thursday, May 10, 2012 file photo, a doctor holds Truvada pills at her office in San Francisco. A study released Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015 shows that the drug, used to treat HIV infection, also can help prevent it when taken before and after risky sex by gay men.

Associated Press

Daily Truvada pills are used now to prevent HIV infection in people at high risk for it, and studies show the drug helps even when some doses are skipped. Health officials have been leery of

billing it as a "chemical condom" out of fear that people will not use the best prevention methods, but many won't use condoms all the time or take daily pills.

The study of Gilead Science's Truvada was led by the French national HIV research agency.

Men were given fake or real Truvada and told to take two pills from two to 24 hours before sex, a third pill 24 hours later, and a fourth pill 48 hours after the first dose. The men also were given condoms and disease prevention counseling.

The study was stopped early, in November, after 400 men were enrolled and researchers saw that the drug was working; there were two new HIV infections among those on Truvada and 14 in those on dummy pills. The two infections in the

Truvada group were in men who stopped using the pills after more than a year in the study.

The drug was safe, but nausea and diarrhea were more frequent among men who used it. Only one stopped using it because of side effects.

Dr. Susan Buchbinder, an AIDS specialist at the San Francisco Department of Public Health, called the results exciting but warned that it can't be assumed they would apply to male-female sex, because different types of sex expose partners to differing amounts of virus.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention still recommends daily Truvada pills for prevention, and many men in the French study ended up taking them nearly that often be-

cause of how frequently they had sex, said the CDC's HIV prevention chief, Dr. Jonathan Mermin.

"We need all the options we can get" for preventing HIV infection, Mermin said. "People choose different prevention methods. What we want is for them to choose effective ones and to use them regularly."

One advocate for wider use of prevention pills — Damon Jacobs, a New York City psychotherapist — agreed.

For years, the public health message was "condoms only, condoms only, condoms only," he said in a speech at the conference. "People are having sex for pleasure" and need alternate ways to reduce their risk, Jacobs said.

A second study presented at the conference by the U.K. Medical Research Council found that daily use of Truvada cut the risk of infection by 86 percent in a "real world" test of gay men aware they were taking Truvada for HIV prevention.

Researchers assigned 545 gay men to get Truvada right away or a year later. The study was stopped in October after HIV infections occurred in only three men given Truvada but in 19 of those assigned to get it after a year.

As in the French study, rates of other sexually spread diseases were similar in both groups, leading researchers to conclude that use of the prevention pills was not increasing risky behavior. □

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Will Smith enters a new phase, learns to 'quiet the warrior'

LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Things started to come into focus for Will Smith when "After Earth" bombed.

Once the biggest movie star in the world, his \$130 million sci-fi spectacle "After Earth" opened in June 2013 to a lousy \$27.5 million and would only go on to make up less than half of its production budget, domestically, by the end of its run. For a man who once defined himself by his box office star power, the blow was crushing.

"From the time I was in my early 20s, I had this goal that 'I want to be the biggest movie star in the world,'" said Smith on a recent afternoon at a suburban Four Seasons Hotel, lowering his voice to a faux-macho level when he says the words "movie star."

"And I set out for conquer," he said. "Smash! Conquer!" he exclaimed animatedly. For a while it worked. Smith has had four movies that have grossed over \$200 million domestically, and 13 that have grossed over \$100 million, most with him headlining. Then "After Earth" happened and everything toppled.

"After the failure of "After Earth," a thing got broken in my mind," he had explained to a group of reporters at a press conference for his new film "Focus" a few minutes earlier.

"I was like, 'oh wow, I'm still alive. Oh wow. I actually still



am me even though the movie didn't open at No. 1. Wait, I still can get hired on another movie?' All of those things collapsed in my mind. Mr. July! Big Willie weekend! No. 1! Eight in a row! All of that collapsed and I realized I still was a good person." "It's a huge emotional shift for me," said Smith, who has since appeared in smaller roles in "Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues" and "Winter's Tale."

"(Daughter) Willow in particular has helped me make a shift from winning and conquering to loving and connecting as a primary purpose for everything. She just absolutely demands attention to her thoughts and feelings. It's a huge lesson for me to quiet the warrior in

me," he said.

It's fitting that Smith's first outing in this new stage is actually called "Focus" (in theaters Friday), a sleek, intimate film from "Crazy, Stupid, Love." directors Glenn Ficarra and John Requa about a smooth, seasoned con-man and his alluring and much younger protege, played by Australian actress Margot Robbie.

Smith and Robbie are meeting in the middle, in film and in life. Smith, in a self-defined new phase, and Robbie right as she's about to break out into the mainstream.

"The Wolf of Wall Street," where Robbie caught the attention of a wider audience playing the wife of Leonardo DiCaprio's character, hadn't even come

out when she was cast in "Focus."

As she remembers it, "Focus" wrapped at 6 a.m. and she was attending the "Wolf" premiere that night. "We couldn't be more opposite," said Smith of his co-star, seated next to her in the hotel.

"I wasn't expecting to get along with him as well as we did. We didn't have anything in common. He's an ex-rapper. I'm from Australia," added Robbie. "I, just like everyone, assumed he was really fun and funny. And he is really fun and funny. I wasn't expecting him to be so intellectual and emotional and deep." Smith laughed.

"Ooooh. Intellectual, emotional and deep?" he said.

"That should be your headline."

The two have a smoldering chemistry in the film and a playful, giggly way around each other off screen, often finishing each other's sentences when they're not making the other keel over in laughter.

They bonded over endless hours of conversation, chess, eating and going out with the cast and crew in the various shooting locations from New Orleans to Buenos Aires. The elaborate Thanksgiving dinner that Smith coordinated while the cast was in Argentina didn't hurt either. Smith said the State Department even got involved to ensure they'd have cranberry sauce.

"He pretty much organized and funded the biggest Thanksgiving fiesta that Argentina has ever seen. That any of us have ever seen," said Robbie. "It's been over a year now but we're still talking about it."

Both credit the directors for making the set as fun and lively as possible, but Smith helps to set the tone.

"For me, it's really important to maintain a positive energy, especially when it's a comedy," said Smith.

"Will walks onto set with a boom box on his shoulder and starts rapping and it's like 5 o'clock in the morning and he's jumping up and down and throwing a rave and then you're just buzzing for the rest of the day," she said. □

Chris Brown says he's been denied entry into Canada

ROB GILLIES
Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Chris Brown tweeted Tuesday that he's been denied entry into Canada and that his concerts in Montreal and Toronto have been canceled.

The Grammy-winning R&B singer was scheduled to perform at the Bell Centre in Montreal on Tuesday and the Air Canada Centre in Toronto on Wednesday night.

Brown said in a tweet the "good people of the Canadian government wouldn't allow me entry. I'll be back this summer and will hopefully see all my Canadian fans!"

Brown was jailed for nearly three months last year for violating his probation by getting into an altercation outside a Washington hotel the previous year. He was on probation after he attacked pop singer Rihanna, his then-girlfriend,

before the 2009 Grammy Awards. Nicole Perna, a spokeswoman for Brown, confirmed Canadian immigration officials denied him entry. Perna said Brown can apply to return at a later date and plans to do so. Live Nation, the promoter, said in a statement that "due to immigration issues" the shows have been canceled and refunds are available at the point of purchase.

In 2010, the United King-



In this Feb. 16, 2015 file photo, singer Chris Brown performs at the Barclays Center in New York. Associated Press

dom denied Brown entry into the country, forcing him to miss four shows. The British government's Home

Office said then that Brown had been refused a visa because of his past criminal record. □

Rancic apologizes for 'weed' jab at Zendaya's dreadlocks

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Giuliana Rancic is apologizing to Zendaya and others offended by Rancic's "Fashion Police" jab at the actress-singer's Oscar-night dreadlocks.

On "E! News" Tuesday, Rancic said the reaction to her comments has increased her awareness of, in her words, "cliches and stereotypes."

They are damaging, she said, adding that she and others have the responsibility to avoid perpetuating them.

During Monday's "Fashion Police" on the E! channel, Rancic said that Zendaya's hair suggested the smell of patchouli oil or marijuana. Her "E! News" remarks went beyond an apology tweet in which Rancic said her references had nothing to do with race.

Zendaya's father is African American.



Zendaya arrives at the Oscars on Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. Associated Press

In a long Twitter post, the 18-year-old Zendaya called Rancic's "Fashion Police" comment about her dreadlocks "outrageously offensive." □

McCartney to headline Firefly music festival

RANDALL CHASE
Associated Press

DOVER, Delaware (AP) — Organizers of the Delaware's Firefly Music Festival say former Beatle Paul McCartney will headline this year's event.

Wednesday's announcement comes a week after festival organizers announced a partial lineup led by the Kings of Leon and The Killers.

But last week's lineup did not include McCartney, despite weeks of rumors that he would be the top draw. Organizers said at the time that they were still waiting on final approval for the third headline act. Other acts scheduled for this year's festival include Morrissey, Snoop Dogg, Foster the People and Modest Mouse.



Paul McCartney and his band perform a secret Valentine's Day concert at Irving Plaza on Saturday, Feb. 14, 2015, in New York. Associated Press

Attendance at Firefly has skyrocketed since the first event drew about 30,000 to the woodlands around Dover Downs International Speedway in 2012. Last year, about 80,000 fans showed up. □

Paris named host city for International Jazz Day 2015



In this Monday, Jan. 30, 2012 file photo, jazz musician Herbert Jeffrey "Herbie" Hancock, performs as part of Unesco Headquarters' in Paris Live Sets', during a ceremonial launch of the World Heritage Convention's 40th anniversary year. Associated Press

CHARLES J. GANS
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Jazz musicians from around the world will gather this April in Paris for International Jazz Day, an event UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Herbie Hancock hopes will bring an uplifting "positive message" to a city still reeling from last month's terrorist attacks.

Hancock and UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova announced Wednesday that Paris had been selected to be the global host city for the fourth annual International Jazz Day on April 30.

Hancock said organizers initially considered Paris as the host city to celebrate its legendary place in jazz history, dating back nearly a century to World War I when African-American troops brought the music to France.

But the deadly January attacks on the French satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo and a Jewish food market have given this year's event added significance, the jazz pianist said.

"Jazz has been a bridge for bringing people together," Hancock told the AP. "It's not sectarian and it's not just for people of a particular ethnic

group. It's for human beings. We need to recognize that which makes us similar, while at the same time honoring that which makes us different."

Bokova said the event was also intended to be a highlight of year-long observances of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

She felt that in these turbulent times, the All-Star Global Concert at UNESCO's Paris headquarters, to be live streamed around the world, will send a vital message.

"Jazz is not simply music. Jazz is about civil rights, human dignity and dialogue among cultures," said Bokova, interviewed by telephone from Paris. "Jazz emphasizes the importance of creativity and freedom of expression."

Hancock, Wayne Shorter, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Dianne Reeves, Al Jarreau, and Marcus Miller will be among the American jazz stars performing at the concert climaxing International Jazz Day celebrations.

This year's lineup will have a bigger international contingent, including pianist A Bu (China); trumpeters Hugh Masekela (South Africa), Ibrahim Maalouf (Leba-

non) and Claudio Roditi (Brazil); saxophonists Igor Butman (Russia), Femi Kuti (Nigeria) and Guillaume Perret (France), and oud player Dhafer Youssef (Tunisia).

The day will kick off with a welcoming ceremony at City Hall, followed by education programs and performances in all 20 districts of Paris, said Tom Carter, president of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, which is presenting the event in partnership with UNESCO. In the evening, more than 50 concerts and performances will take place across Paris.

Once again, Jazz Day events are planned in nearly all 196 U.N. member states. Bokova said the initiative has spread quickly since its launch in 2012 when about 70 countries participated.

Last year, Jazz Day even spread to Antarctica, where staff at the McMurdo and Palmer stations performed jazz standards.

For Hancock, who won an Oscar for best original score for the 1986 film "Round Midnight" about expatriate American jazzmen in Paris, the French capital is a most appropriate host city given its tradition.

In the 1930s, the Hot Club of France Quintet featuring guitarist Django Reinhardt and violinist Stephane Grappelli became the first European jazz group to make a major impact. After World War II, American jazz artists such as soprano saxophonist Sydney Bechet, drummer Kenny Clarke and pianist Bud Powell made Paris their home.

"The feeling you get in Paris ... is of deep respect and honor from the French people," said Hancock. "They really look up to jazz as being a great art music. It's a music recognized by people from all walks of life and all age ranges." □

Jeb Bush's Brainless Trust



MAUREEN DOWD

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WASHINGTON - I had been keeping an open mind on Jeb Bush. I mean, sure, as Florida governor, he helped his brother snatch the 2000 election. And that led to two decade-long botched wars that cost tens of thousands of lives and trillions of dollars. The nation will be dealing for a long time with struggling veterans and the loss of American prestige. Not to mention that W. let Wall Street gamble away the economy, which is only now finally creeping back. But, all that aside, shouldn't John Ellis Bush have the right to make the case that he is his own man? In his foreign policy speech in Chicago on Wednesday, Jeb was dismissive toward those who want to know where he stands in relation to his father and brother. "In fact," he said, mockingly, "this is a great, fascinating thing in the political world for some reason." For some reason?

Like the Clintons, the Bushes drag the country through national traumas that spring from their convoluted family dynamic and then disingenuously wonder why we concern ourselves with their family dynamic.

Without their last names, Hillary and Jeb would not be front-runners, buoyed by networks of donors grateful for appointments or favors bestowed by the family. (When Jeb and W. ran gubernatorial races in 1994, they both mined their mother's Christmas card list for donors.)

Yet Jeb is bristling with Jane Austen-style condescension, acting as though he would still be where he is if his last name were Tree. The last two presidents in his party were his father and brother, and his brother crashed the family station wagon into the globe, and Jeb is going to have to address that more thoroughly than saying "there were mistakes made in Iraq for sure."

He says he doesn't want to focus on "the past," and who can blame him? But how can he talk about leading America into the future if he can't honestly assess the past, or his family's controversial imprint?

In his speech, he blamed President Barack Obama for the void that hatched ISIS, which he also noted didn't exist in 2003 at the dawn of "the liberation of Iraq." Actually, his brother's invasion of Iraq is what spawned al-Qaida in Iraq, which drew from an insurgency of Sunni soldiers angry about being thrown out of work by the amateurish and vainglorious viceroy, Paul Bremer.

Although Jeb likes to act as though his family is irrelevant to his ambitions, Bushworld stalwarts

recite the Bush dynasty narrative like a favorite fairy tale:

The wonky Jeb, not the cocky W., was always 41's hope. H.W. and Bar never thought W., unprepared, unruly and with a chip on his shoulder, would be president. His parents' assumption that he was The One got in Jeb's head and now the 62-year-old feels he needs "to try to correct and make up for some of W.'s mistakes," as one family friend put it. The older Bush circle seems confident that Jeb sided with his father and Brent Scowcroft on the folly of letting the neocons push America into diverting from Osama to Saddam. So for Bushworld, Jeb is the redeemer, the one who listens and talks in full sentences that make sense, the one who will restore the luster of the Bush name. But if you want to be your own person, you have to come up with your own people.

W. was a boy king, propped up by regents supplied by his father. Since he knew nothing about foreign affairs, his father surrounded him with his own advisers: Colin Powell, Condi Rice and Dick Cheney, who joined up with his pal Donald Rumsfeld and absconded with W.'s presidency.

Jeb, too, wanted to bolster his negligible foreign policy cred, so the day of his speech, his aide released a list of 21 advisers, 19 of whom had worked in the administrations of his father and his brother. The list starts with the estimable James Baker. But then it shockingly veers into warmongers.

It's mind-boggling, but there's Paul Wolfowitz, the unapologetic designer of the doctrine of unilateralism and pre-emption, the naïve cheerleader for the Iraq invasion and the man who assured Congress that Iraqi oil would pay for the country's reconstruction and that it was ridiculous to think we would need as many troops to control the country as Gen. Eric Shinseki, then the Army chief of staff, suggested.

There's John Hannah, Cheney's national security adviser (cultivated by the scheming Ahmed Chalabi), who tried to stuff hyped-up junk on Saddam into Powell's U.N. speech and who harbored bellicose ambitions about Iran; Stephen Hadley, who let the false 16-word assertion about Saddam trying to buy yellowcake in Niger into W.'s 2003 State of the Union; Porter Goss, the former CIA director who defended waterboarding. There's Michael Hayden, who publicly misled Congress about warrantless wiretapping and torture, and Michael Chertoff, the Homeland Security secretary who fumbled Katrina.

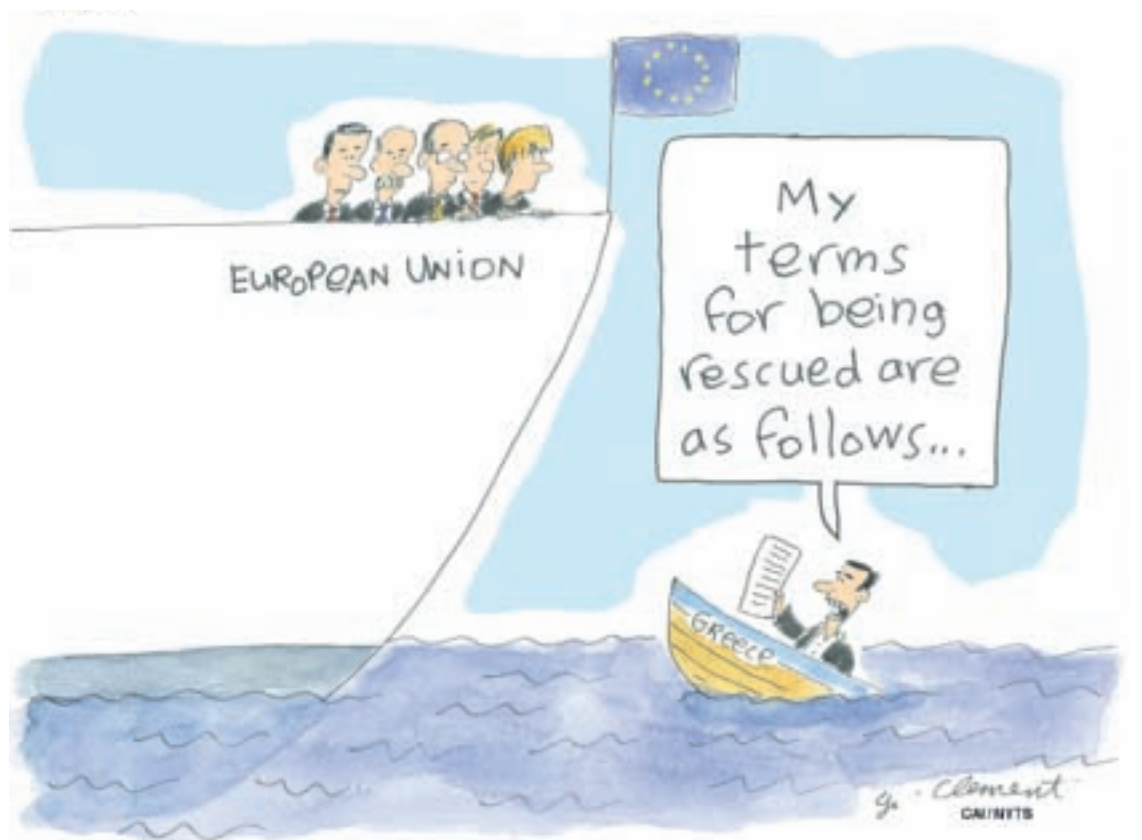
Jeb is also getting advice from Condi Rice, queen of the apocalyptic mushroom cloud. And in his speech he twice praised a supporter, Henry Kissinger, who advised prolonging the Vietnam War, which the Nixon White House thought might help with the 1972 election.

Why not bring back Scooter Libby?

If he wants to reclaim the Bush honor, Jeb should be holding accountable those who inflicted deep scars on America, not holding court with them.

Where's the shame?

For some reason, Jeb doesn't see it. □



Straight Talk for White Men



NICHOLAS KRISTOF

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Supermarket shoppers are more likely to buy French wine when French music is playing, and to buy German wine when they hear German music. That's true even though only 14 percent of shoppers say they noticed the music, a study finds.

Researchers discovered that candidates for medical school interviewed on sunny days received much higher ratings than those interviewed on rainy days. Being interviewed on a rainy day was a setback equivalent to having an MCAT score 10 percent lower, according to a new book called "Everyday Bias," by Howard J. Ross.

Those studies are a reminder that we humans are perhaps less rational than we would like to think, and more prone to the buffeting of unconscious influences. That's something for those of us who are white men to reflect on when we're accused of "privilege."

White men sometimes feel besieged and baffled by these suggestions of systematic advantage. When I wrote a series last year, "When Whites Just Don't Get It," the reaction from white men was often indignant: It's an equal playing field now! Get off our case!

Yet the evidence is overwhelm-

ing that unconscious bias remains widespread in ways that systematically benefit both whites and men. So white men get a double dividend, a payoff from both racial and gender biases.

Consider a huge interactive exploration of 14 million reviews on RateMyProfessors.com that recently suggested that male professors are disproportionately likely to be described as a "star" or "genius." Female professors are disproportionately described as "nasty," "ugly," "bossy" or "disorganized."

One reaction from men was: Well, maybe female professors are more disorganized!

But researchers at North Carolina State conducted an experiment in which they asked students to rate teachers of an online course (the students never saw the teachers). To some of the students, a male teacher claimed to be female and vice versa.

When students were taking the class from someone they believed to be male, they rated the teacher more highly. The very same teacher, when believed to be female, was rated significantly lower.

Something similar happens with race.

Two scholars, Marianne Bertrand and Sendhil Mullainathan, sent out fictitious résumés in response to help-wanted ads. Each résumé was given a name that either sounded stereotypically African-American or one that sounded white, but the résumés were otherwise basically the same.

The study found that a résumé with a name like Emily or Greg received 50 percent more callbacks than the same résumé with a name like Lakisha or Jamal. Having a white-sounding name was as beneficial as eight years' work experience.

Then there was the study in which researchers asked professors to evaluate the summary of a supposed applicant for a post as laboratory manager, but, in some cases, the applicant was named John and in others Jennifer. Everything else was the same.

"John" was rated an average of 4.0 on a 7-point scale for competence, "Jennifer" a 3.3. When asked to propose an annual starting salary for the applicant, the professors suggested on average a salary for "John" almost \$4,000 higher than for "Jennifer."

It's not that we white men are intentionally doing anything wrong, but we do have a penchant for obliviousness about the way we are beneficiaries of systematic unfairness. Maybe that's because in a race, it's easy not to notice a tailwind, and white men often go through life with a tailwind, while women and people of color must push against a headwind.

While we don't notice systematic unfairness, we do observe specific efforts to redress it - such as affirmative action, which often strikes white men as profoundly unjust. Thus a majority of white Americans surveyed in a 2011 study said that there is now more racism against whites than against blacks.

None of these examples mean exactly that society is full of hard-core racists and misogynists. Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, a Duke University sociologist, aptly calls the present situation "racism without racists"; it could equally be called "misogyny without misogynists." Of course, there are die-hard racists and misogynists out there, but the bigger problem seems to be well-meaning people who believe in equal rights yet make decisions that inadvertently transmit both racism and sexism.

So, come on, white men! Let's just acknowledge that we're all flawed, biased and sometimes irrational, and that we can do more to resist unconscious bias. That means trying not to hire people just because they look like us, avoiding telling a young girl she's "beautiful" while her brother is "smart." It means acknowledging systematic bias as a step toward correcting it.

Contact Kristof at Facebook.com/Kristof, Twitter.com/Nick-Kristof or by mail at The New York Times, 620 Eighth Ave., New York, NY 10018. □

The Lively Look of Fresh-Made Green Chorizo

MELISSA CLARK

© 2015 New York Times

Chorizo sausage can be many things, but I did not realize that one of them was green.

The chorizos I'd come across before had been red, whether they were the firm, cured kind from Spain rust-tinted with paprika or the floppy fresh Mexican kind flavored

dish, or with both kale and potatoes for a taco filling. In Mexico, it's usually fried and cradled in warm tortillas with avocado, flecked with cheese.

Stupak makes his green chorizo in-house with ground pork (the fattier the cut, the better), and it's easy to replicate at home. It isn't stuffed in casing, so you don't need

than you had hoped, you can still use the chilies for the chorizo, and it will still taste fantastic. (I can personally attest to this.) When you have your green chorizo ready to go, sauté it until golden at the edges, then use it as you would any spicy fresh sausage: in tacos, with pasta, with vegetables or as a base for a chililike

1/4 cup sherry vinegar
1 cup parsley leaves
1 tablespoon kosher salt
1. Place the ground pork in a large bowl. Set a cast-iron skillet over medium heat for 5 minutes. Add black peppercorns, coriander seeds, cumin seeds, oregano, bay leaf and cloves and toast briefly until fragrant, about 15 seconds. Remove from

chili, and peel away the charred skin.

3. In a blender, purée roasted garlic cloves, serrano and poblano chilies along with the sherry vinegar, parsley and salt until smooth. Transfer to the bowl with the pork and spices.

4. Mix the chorizo with your (preferably gloved) hands until thoroughly combined. Transfer to a container and refrigerate until ready to use, or for up to 3 days. The chorizo can also be frozen in an airtight bag for up to 1 month.



Black bean stew with homemade green chorizo, in New York. The pungent green chorizo sausage is spiked with roasted serrano and poblano chiles, plenty of herbs and a shot of vinegar for tang instead of the smoky earthiness red chorizo.

(Andrew Scrivani/The New York Times)

and colored with ancho chilies.

Then I encountered the green chorizo at Empellón al Pastor in New York. A specialty of the Toluca region of Mexico, the pungent sausage was spiked with roasted serrano and poblano chilies, plenty of herbs and a shot of vinegar for tang. Though it lacked the smoky earthiness of the chorizos I was used to, it more than compensated with its herbal brightness and razor-sharp chili bite. Likemost Mexican chorizos, this green chorizo is a fresh sausage that's meant to be cooked before eating. At Empellón al Pastor, the chef Alex Stupak sautés it with kale to serve as a side

the usual sausage-making gear – just knead all the ingredients together, and it's ready for crumbling and browning in the skillet. Or let it rest in the refrigerator for a day or two before browning it, which allows the flavors to meld.

The only time-consuming part is roasting the chilies and garlic on the stovetop before mixing them into the pork. If you have an exhaust fan, this is a good time to use it; roasted chilies can give off clouds of acrid smoke if you don't manage to catch them at the precise moment between perfectly charred and slightly burned. But even if they do get slightly blacker

bean stew. It's as versatile as the red, and just as appealing.

GREEN CHORIZO

Time: 30 minutes

Yield: 1 1/4 pounds sausage

1 pound ground pork
1 teaspoon whole black peppercorns
1 tablespoon whole coriander seeds
1/8 teaspoon whole cumin seeds
1/2 teaspoon dried oregano, preferably Mexican
1 dried bay leaf
4 whole cloves
8 garlic cloves (do not peel)
2 serrano chilies
1 poblano chili

the heat, transfer to a spice grinder and grind to a fine powder. Add to the bowl with the ground pork.

2. Return the skillet to a high flame and heat for 5 minutes. Add garlic cloves, serrano and poblano chilies and roast, turning them from time to time until softened slightly and blackened in spots, about 6 to 12 minutes, removing the pieces as they finish cooking. Set aside to cool at room temperature. Once garlic cloves are cool enough to handle, peel them and discard the skin. Wearing gloves if possible, remove stems and seeds from serrano chilies. Remove stems and seeds from the poblano

BLACK BEAN & CHORIZO STEW

Time: 1 hour 45 minutes

Yield: 6 to 8 servings

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

1 large white onion, diced
1/2 batch (12 ounces) homemade green chorizo (see recipe), or use another spicy fresh sausage

1/4 cup chopped cilantro stems, leaves reserved for serving

7 cups cooked black beans (from 4 cans or 1 pound dried beans), drained

1 (28-ounce) can diced plum tomatoes with their juices

2 teaspoons kosher salt, more as needed

Diced avocado, for serving

Sliced scallion, for serving
Lime wedges, for serving

1. Heat oil over medium heat in a large Dutch oven or heavy-bottom pot. Add onion and cook until softened, 5 to 10 minutes. Stir in chorizo and cilantro stems and cook 5 minutes over high heat, or until much of the liquid has evaporated.

2. Stir in beans, tomatoes and their liquid, and 1 cup water. Bring mixture to a boil over high heat; reduce to medium.

3. Partly cover pot and simmer until tomatoes have fallen apart, about 1 hour to 1 hour 15 minutes. Season with salt. Serve with avocado, scallion, cilantro leaves and lime wedges. □